

Florida
WILDLIFE

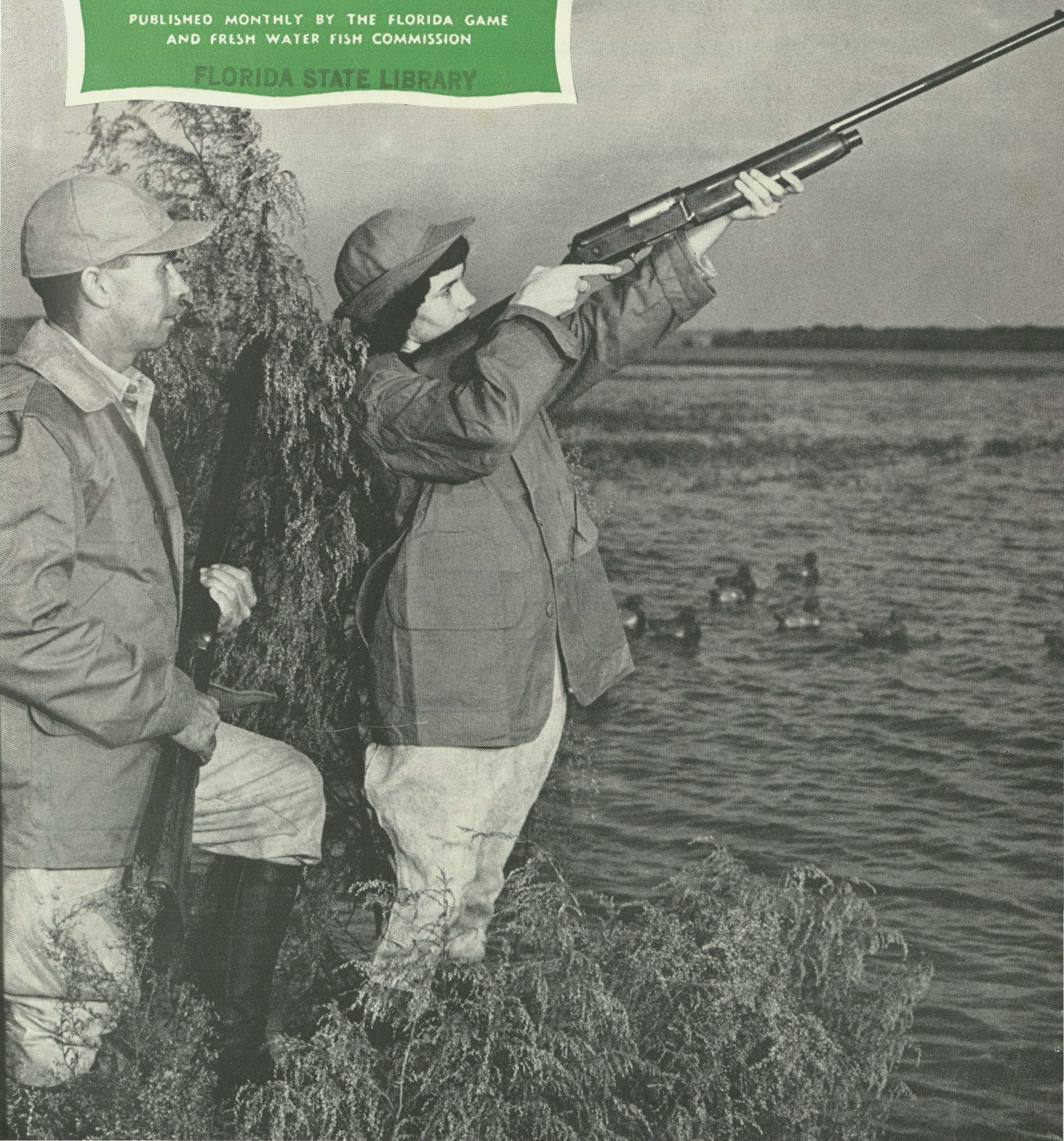


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In This Issue

The Black Bear . . . Saint or Sinner?	O. Earl Frye	6
The Glass Magician	Bob Dahne	8
Bachelor's Paradise	Bill Snyder	10
Bang! You are Dead	E. P. Ray, Jr.	12
Operations Everglades	Phil Francis	14
"J-D" Can Be Stopped!	Orville Fisher	16
Rarest Bird of All	Wallace B. Finlay	17
"Flying" Fish Camp	S. R. Winters	19
The Wildlife Story	Paul Einstein	20
Don't Be a Corpse	Charles H. Anderson	24

DEPARTMENTS

STICKS AND STONES	3	FIRING LINES	31
EDITORIAL	5	PROFESSOR SMARTY	33
KNOW YOUR REPTILES	18	BOOKS	37
NEW HUNTING LAWS	21	FLORIDA'S OUTDOORS SPEAKS	46

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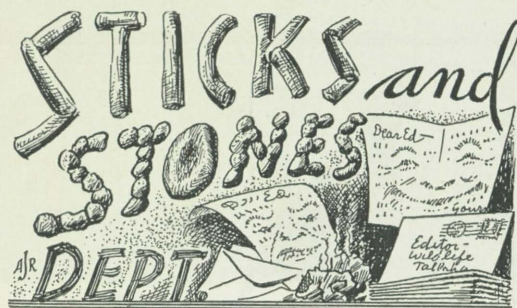
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QUAIL VS SNAKES

Dear Sir:

I notice that in Professor Smarty's quiz in the July issue of FLORIDA WILDLIFE that one answer explains the cause of different sized quail in the same covey as being a mixture of different coveys. I want to say that the answer is not correct. Florida quail start in the Spring and lay every day for approximately 90 days, the eggs hatching after two weeks. So after the first two weeks there are new eggs and new quail continuously until the hen stops laying and the last eggs hatch and the youngest birds leave the nest with all the brood, some of which are naturally full grown and others are graded down to thumb-size. But they all stay together and do not join any other covey.

Of course, during the laying and hatching period the adult birds cannot look after the young so well, and predatory fowl, rodents and snakes get quite a few of the members of every covey so that the final covey is never very large.

One blacksnake or coachwhip will wreck a litter of quail once they find a nest because they stay with it until the quail leave. These two snakes are really the biggest part of the answer to small coveys of quail.

O. K. POMEROY

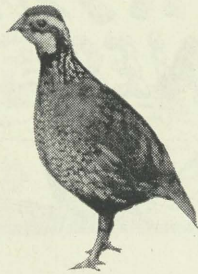
Fort Myers

(Professor Smarty's original answer to the question "Do quail raise two broods in one season?" was: "Probably not. At least there has never been an authentic record of their doing so. Young birds of different sizes are frequently seen together in one brood but this is apparently the result of the known tendency of two or more growing broods of quail to combine." Our wildlife biologists maintain that Professor Smarty was entirely correct.—ED.)

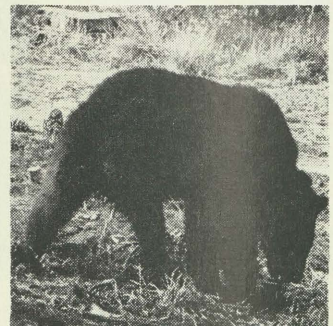
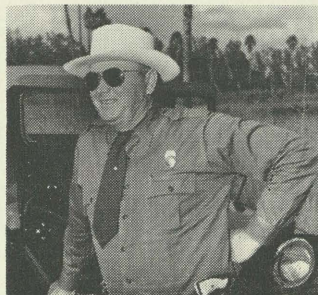
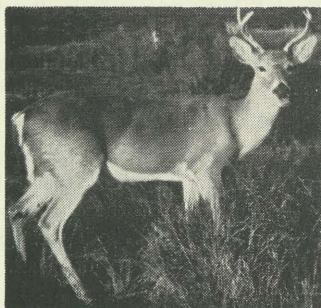
(Continued on Page 39)

The Cover

November means Hunting to happy Florida nimrods.
—Photo by Charles H. Anderson.



THE UNIVERSAL 'Jeep'



E. E. GNANN

"I should know what they will do because I used one on Okinawa in the Navy Sea Bees in World War II and if you want to get where the violations are you have to get to the most remote spots and the Jeep is the answer."

Signed—E. E. GNANN, State Wildlife Officer.



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Let's Save It

WE, who are living in Florida today, are faced with an enormous problem. It is a problem that affects the welfare of every living person, and a problem that will eventually affect the welfare of persons as yet unborn. It is a public problem that must be solved, for better or worse, by the general public of this State.

Put as briefly as possible, the problem is this: Florida, today, possesses the last wildlife frontier to be found within the continental limits of the United States. It is a vast, rich, beautiful region filled with a wealth of wildlife ranging from exotic orchids to gentle fox squirrels, and from stately cypress trees to dangerous panthers. Certain portions of this wildlife frontier are easily accessible to any interested persons, while other portions are so remote and forbidding as to have been visited by few, if any, white men. With the exceptions of the comparatively few cities and cultivated areas presently within the State, this wildlife frontier extends all the way from Key West in the south to King's Ferry in the north, and from Mayport in the east to Nakomis in the west. Actually, it covers an area of 58,560 square miles, and contains more wildlife than any other region in this country.

The problem, then, is this: How shall we save it? Yes, how shall we save it—now that it is disappearing so rapidly?

By ignoring the truth, we can brag about our wealth of wildlife, our fine fishing and hunting, and our beautiful vegetation, but we cannot avoid the fact that as a last wildlife frontier, Florida is rapidly dwindling away under the onslaughts of civilization.

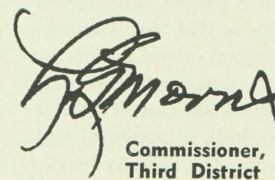
Under the pressure of great agricultural improvements made in recent years, rapid expansion of many of Florida's cities and towns, increase of commercial

activities, and introduction of many new destructive elements, Florida's wilderness area is fast becoming a thing of the past.

We cannot, of course, stop the progress of civilization. Farmers must continue growing food, stockmen must continue improving pasturelands, industries must continue operating and expanding, and people must continue to build their homes.

But, somehow, we must also take steps that will insure the protection and maintenance of our wildlife resources. Beyond the fact that ample supplies of wildlife make for beautiful and interesting surroundings, and also furnish sport and amusement for many people, is the fact that our wildlife is our wealth. For that reason alone we must begin to conserve it, for the simple fact is that the amount of money that circulates annually throughout this State has a direct relationship to the abundance of our fish, animals, trees, waters, plants and flowers. In proof of this, consider the fact that Florida's fresh-water fishermen alone annually spend well over 100 million dollars on their favorite sport.

So, our wildlife is our wealth. We must conserve it. Conservation can only be accomplished by cooperation—cooperation of the general public, the sportsmen, the nature-lovers, the businessmen, and government officials. All of us must work and cooperate together in solving this tremendous problem of preventing the rapid disappearance of Florida's wildlife resources. Our wildlife is our wealth, so: Let's save it.



Commissioner,
Third District

An Editorial



Black bears can be saints or sinners, depending upon their mood. They can be playful, mean, comical and treacherous, sometimes all at once.

"D. Boon cilled A BAR on this tree year 1760."

This inscription, carved deeply into the wood by America's foremost pioneer, frontiersman and hunter, Daniel Boone, was found on a beech tree near Jonesboro in eastern Tennessee. It typifies the conspicuous position occupied by the bear in the minds and lives of the sturdy people who tamed and settled the wilderness that was America.

Probably no other animal except the white-tail deer played such an important part in the early history of the Southeast. The bear was, at the same time, both a beneficial and detrimental influence on the scheme of the settler's life. The flesh of the bear was eaten while his tough, durable hide was transformed into warm rugs, robes and overcoats. On the other hand, the bear was a detrimental influence in many areas because of his raids on crops and livestock which sometimes meant the difference between survival and failure in the precarious frontier existence.

Of perhaps greater significance than his actual importance to the frontiersmen, has

been the position of the bear as the subject of stories handed down from generation to generation. Tales of his great strength, of his ferocity when cornered, of his capacity for destruction, of his antics as a pet, of his stealing young children, all combined to make bear stories an integral part of American folklore. Most of these stories, admittedly, lost nothing in the telling—particularly those dealing with bears attacking man. Authentic instances of unprovoked attacks on man by bears are rare indeed. Many tales were brought over from the Old World, where the European bear, since the dawn of history, has played an important part in the lives and folklore of Europeans.

BY
O. EARL FRYE
WITH
BILL AND LES PIPER

WITH the coming of the machine age and modern civilization, the bear has undoubtedly lost some of his charm for children. The possibility of a bear entering his bedroom cannot seem as real to the little boy in the apartment building in Miami or Jacksonville as it did 100 years ago in the log cabin set in the wilderness.

Similarly, the bear no longer plays a very important part in the lives of even rural people. True, in some parts of Florida and other states, a bear occasionally makes off with a pig, destroys a few bee-hives, or even kills a cow or calf. Nevertheless, with all the defenses that the settler of today has—the availability of good dogs, modern trapping equipment, and innumerable hunters willing to form a party to go after the maurader, besides the accessibility of most of the bears' haunts due to improvement of roads—the bear can certainly no longer be considered a menace to the livelihood of the settler. Also, with the purchase of tremendous blocks of land by large cattle and timber producers, and the accompanying movement of settlers from remote back-

woods areas, the possibility of bear damage has been greatly reduced.

The recent action of the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission in placing the bear on the protected list is a recognition of the changing picture. The bear is passing from the category of varmint and menace to Floridians' livelihood, and is now recognized as a game animal well worthy of protection and conservation. The Commission realizes that an occasional bear may be damaging to livestock or other interests, and that such harmful individuals must be eliminated. Any person suffering damages from bears can contact a Wildlife Officer and acquire a special permit to track down the culprit.

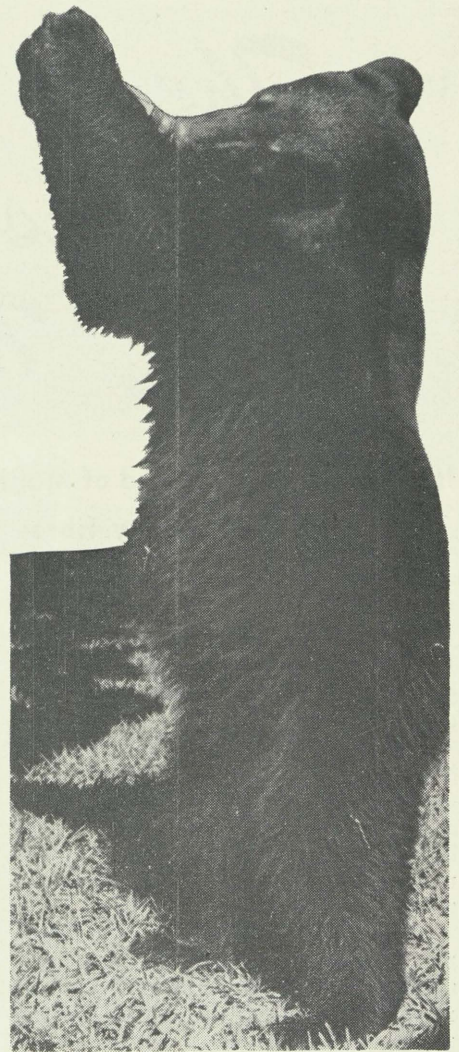
There is no intention of protecting the bear when it is interfering with any man's livelihood. On the other hand, most sportsmen in the state are interested in stopping the needless slaughter of this fine game animal, so bear hunting can return to its rightful place among the outdoor sports of Florida. The bear has long been recognized and protected as a game animal in such conservation-minded states as Pennsylvania, Michigan, and New York. For example, 800 bears, more than live in Florida today, were legally taken by Michigan hunters in the fall of 1940.

Bears have been protected in parts of Florida, principally in certain of the na-

tional forests, for a number of years, and seem to be increasing in some areas. Organized bear hunts are now held each year in the Apalachicola and Osceola National Forests. The Forest Service has records of six bears killed in 1949 in the Apalachicola Forest and five killed in the Osceola Forest. In addition, it is estimated that 20 bears were killed outside the Forest area, but in the immediate vicinity of the Osceola Forest, in 1949.

Still fairly well distributed throughout Florida, bears are nowhere numerous. They are probably most abundant in the Apalachicola National Forest in Liberty County; in and around the Osceola National Forest in northeast Florida; in the swamps of the St. Johns River on the east coast; from Leon County south to Hernando County along the Gulf coast; and in certain sections of the Everglades. It is unlikely that there are more than 500 bears remaining in the entire state.

The authors estimate that the number of bears now living in the Everglades does not exceed 30. The disappearance of the bear from the Everglades can be attributed not only to man's direct activities, such as hunting, fire-setting and drainage of lands, but also to his destruction of the alligator and the resulting loss of waterholes formerly maintained by large alligators during dry periods.



A Piper bear shows off his figure while absorbing a sweet drink.



Bill Piper (left) and his brother Les admire one of their hand-raised young bears at Bonita Springs.

Bear hunting has long been a favorite sport of many Florida hunters, and, in the not too distant past, bears were sufficiently abundant in certain sections of the state to furnish excellent hunting. For example, A. D. Williams, of Crystal River, reported killing 21 bears in his neighborhood in one winter about 1932.

Contrary to the situation in most other states, the bear was never given statewide protection as a game animal in Florida until this summer of 1950. Fortunately, Florida has finally awakened to the fact that its stock of bears is badly depleted and must be conserved if the sport of bear-hunting is to remain and grow in the state.

Dogs usually are used for bear hunting in Florida. Some hunters use highly specialized combination packs of dogs which contain strike dogs, trail dogs, and fighting dogs, but this is the exception. Most hunters depend on a conventional pack of hounds. One prime requirement for any

(Continued on Page 28)

The Glass Magician

It takes a special brand of magic to make a sturdy glass fishing rod out of flimsy fibres. Doran knows the tricks!

HARRY C. DORAN is a man who's whole future is made of glass. Fortunately, it is a hard, shatterproof glass of his own making, and it can be easily twisted and tortured into corkscrew shapes without cracking or breaking. So tough is it that Doran is one man who could conceivably build a house out of his own glass without being afraid to throw stones at his neighbors. Even a sledgehammer would have little effect on it.

Doran is actually a man with a shop full of glass and a bag full of trick—the glass is his own special brand of fibreglass which he makes into fishing rods, and the tricks are truly amazing to the uninitiated.

You can't help but be astonished when you first see Harry demonstrate the strength and durability of his glass rods. He likes to do this by simply sawing the end off one of his fishing rods. Then he casually sharpens one end to a spike-point on an electric grinder. After carefully selecting the heaviest hammer in his shop, you are ceremoniously conducted outside to a nearby telephone pole.

"Glass is a wonderful material," says Harry as he lightly taps the point of the glass spike into the wood. "It can be made so strong that it is practically indestructible," he continues, beginning to take healthy, full-arm swings with the hammer.

Listening to the solid whaps of the hammer as it sledges the spike deep into the pole, one is not inclined to argue with him. For there, before your very eyes, is the glass spike driven deeply and solidly into the wood, and the end is hardly marred by the heavy hammering. In fact, he has driven it so deep that it cannot be extracted with-

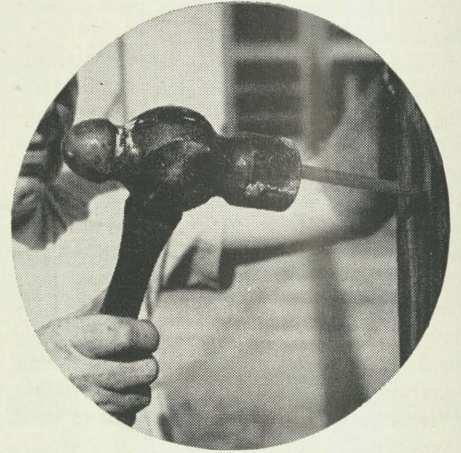
out using the hammer to knock it out. Then you see that the point of the glass spike has not even been blunted.

Another one of Doran's tricks is to take the same glass spike, hard and practically indestructible, and turn it into a silky-soft paintbrush. This he does by fire—calmly lighting the end of the cold glass stick with a match. It takes a while for the glass to catch fire, but when it does, it burns with a slow, safe, blue and yellow flame. When an inch or so of the stick is burned, he blows out the fire, drops the stick on the floor, stamps on the end of it, and then picks up your glass paintbrush.

Amazed at the proceedings, you carefully inspect it. Sure enough, you have a hard glass stick which tapers off at the end into silky glass fibres so soft that they can hardly be felt when they brush against your skin.

Like all modern magic, Doran's flaming glass is easily understood when you know what is happening. The glass stick was originally made from filmy glass fibres which are bonded together with a special resin. When enough heat is applied, the resin burns out with a flickering flame, leaving only the blackened fibres behind. Then, by stepping or pounding on the end of the stick, you break the fibres apart. The result is a paintbrush.

The amazing glass rods which Doran makes are hard, yet can be bent into a U-shape, and are uncuttable with a



Harry C. Doran drives a glass spike into a pole, demonstrating the strength of his glass rods.

knife, yet can be ground into any shape desired, or sawed off to any length. Sun or weather does not harm them, and yet they will burn under intense heat.

In making his "Kissimmee Fibreglass Rods" at his little shop located on the Orange Blossom highway at Kissimmee, Doran insists that all of his finished glass fishing rods be put through a "U-test" before they go out of the shop. The "U-test" means that each rod must first pass the test of being bent into a U-shape before it receives Doran's stamp of approval.

Furthermore, Doran guarantees his fishing rods as being proof against any type of weather, and as being unbreakable under any normal fishing conditions. He will replace, without question, any rod of his making that has been broken, unless it has been wilfully destroyed.

Doran's process of making glass rods is a product of his own inventive mind. He was originally a machinist by trade, until he became interested in experimenting with the new glass fibre materials which were being produced. Typically enough, he started his first experiments in his wife's kitchen oven. These trial experiments lasted until severe fumes forced him to move his operations.

A persistent fellow, Doran experimented for two years before he discovered the secrets of making hard glass rods from soft fibres. "I didn't spend a million dollars on my experiments," he says. "I accomplished more in the art of making fibreglass with only a \$10 bill than a lot of people have accomplished with a \$100,000 bill."

Doran's process of turning glass

by
Bob Dahne

fibres into glass rods is an interesting one.

He purchases his original glass fibres from the Corning Glass Company, and it comes to him in the form of large spools of glass yarn, which actually looks like extremely fine white silk thread. By setting the spools on a feeding rack, and running threads from each spool into a common guide, Doran turns the glass threads, or fibres, into a loose rope of thread. This is then run through a resin solution which bonds the fibres together.

By a special process, the impregnated glass yarn is then woven onto frames so that there is the correct amount of yarn to make a rod of the proper strength, length, size and flexibility.

The woven yarn is then fed into tubular, seamless steel molds, or tubes, of the proper length. When filled, the molds go into a baking oven and are left to bake at a temperature of about 375 degrees Fahrenheit for four hours.

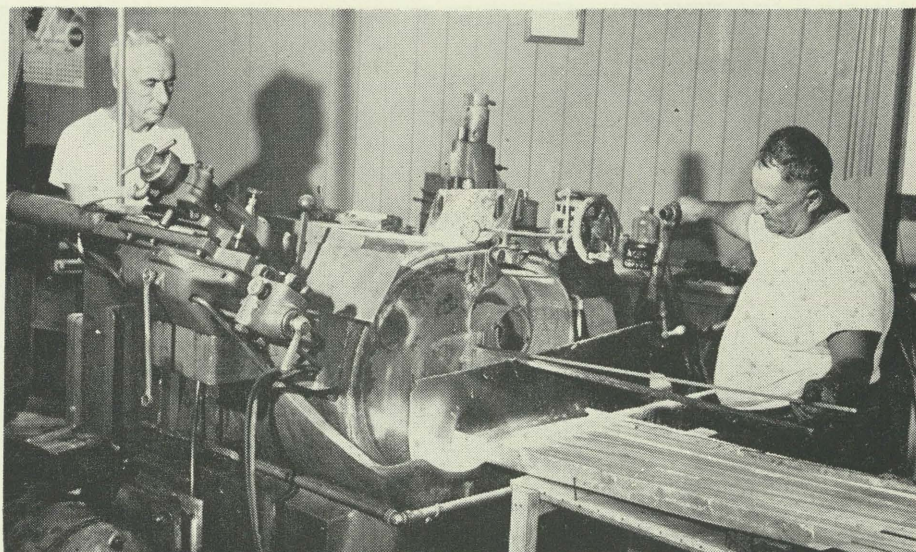
When baked, the rough glass blanks are broken out of the steel molds and taken to the grinding machine, which will grind any stick or blank of glass into the proper taper and diameter to make a fishing rod. This completes Doran's process of making glass fishing rods, insofar as the taper and action are concerned.

The final step is to place and wrap the line guides on and varnish the completed stick, after which the metal ferrule is forced on to the butt end of the blade.

Doran likes to specialize in making custom-built glass rods which will meet any customer's specifications. No matter what type of fishing rod you prefer, or think you prefer, whether it is three feet or seven feet long, or stiff or flexible, Doran will build it to your own personal tastes. Surprisingly enough, he is able to do this at a very low price. He does not, however, make a practice of furnishing the handle for the rod, preferring, instead, to specialize only in making the blade for your rod.

He will also fit a glass blade or tip to any handle you present him. He prefers to do this because he thinks that the buyers should tell Doran what they want in the way of a fishing rod, instead of Doran telling the customers what he thinks they should have. In other words, he builds his rods to please his customers.

(Continued on Page 40)



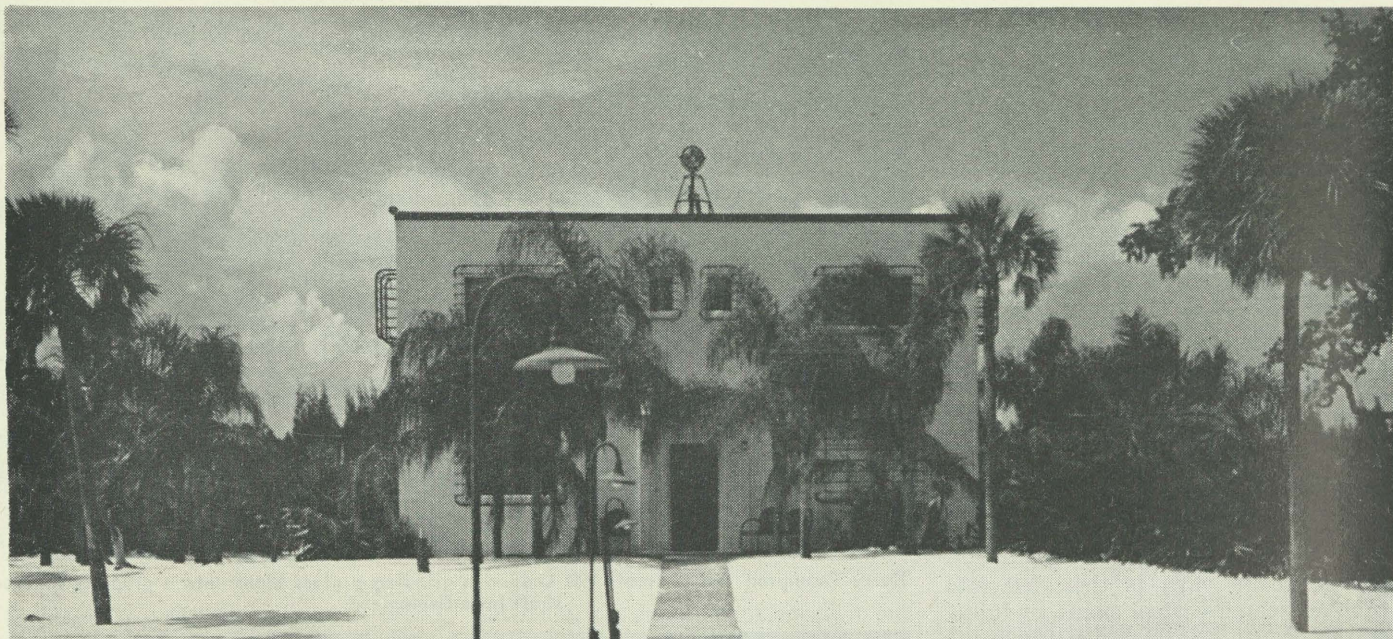
Harry Thompson (left) assists Pat Ledger in grinding a glass blank into a properly tapered shaft for a fishing rod.



Emma Morin and Thelma Thompson expertly wrap line guides on glass sticks to complete finished rod tips.



All glass rods are put through a "U-bending" test by Doran (right) and Ledger.



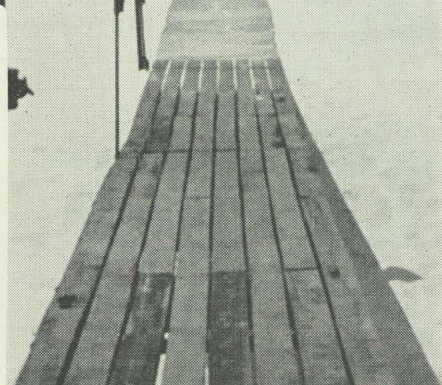
Bachelor's

HISTORY tells us that Diogenes, away back in 400 B.C., used to light up his lantern at high-noon and start a daily search for an honest man.

Someway or other I was reminded of the ancient philosopher not too long ago when I met Walter Phillips, sportsman, conservationist, and citrus expert, whose estate "Bachelor's Paradise," is located 15 miles southwest of Orlando.

When I met him I had met a man with whom Florida hunting and fishing are not considered a sport—they actually are his religion! I was convinced that if all of us started following his pattern, then there would be no danger of our fish and game diminishing to the disappearing point. You see, Walter is a man who sternly practices what he preaches concerning conservation.

Walter's home is as amazing as the owner is himself. It contains what likely is the most outstanding collection of modern shotguns, rifles, pistols and revolvers in southeastern United States. What's more, Phillips doesn't have to take long trips into the country to keep his marksmanship in constant trim. You see, he has an amazing range room, 50 feet long, inside his home where he can practice with everything ranging from a "BB"



by
Bill Snyder

target pistol to a .357 magnum gun that has a six-inch barrel, weighs 45 ounces, and can pierce quarter-inch steel!

Phillips is rightfully proud of every specimen in his gun collection. He wears gloves in handling any of the firearms as a precaution against rusting. He offers the same careful attention with each piece as a registered nurse likely gives to a newly-born babe in a spotless maternity ward. What's more, he somewhat apologetically demonstrates that he not only KNOWS guns—but that he is equally proficient in firing them.

First of all, Walter pushed an exquisite console radio against the firing range wall and placed a small spool of thread on top of it. Standing with a .22 caliber rifle at a distance of 30 feet, Walter said:

"You know I'm mighty proud of my radio—I hope I don't miss."

Paradise

The gun cracked.

The spool disappeared in flying pieces! The console was unscarred.

"One well-placed shot is worth a thousand misses," Walter remarked quietly.

NEXT, a common kitchen match was pinned to the target wall. He stepped back thirty feet, turned the rifle upsidedown, fired twice, and the match was cut in two.

"I should have done that in one shot," Walter complained.

By this time my eyes were bulging—but I actually hadn't seen anything yet. The next shooting demonstration was one that floored me.

A common calling card was placed edgewise in a crack of the target wall. Standing again at 30 feet, Walter fired the rifle six times before he succeeded in cutting the card in two.

"That was a mighty poor demonstration," was his only remark.

An examination of the firing range wall revealed that it is composed of eight inches of concrete and two inches of armorplate. This is covered with two-inch boards to prevent shot from splattering.

Walter started his modern gun collection back in 1930, and despite the fact that at one time or another he has given away 110 rifles, pistols and shotguns to "deserving" people, the

collection has reached amazing proportions. It contains shotguns, from the cheapest to the best, of American manufacture — there are no foreign guns.

"Foreign guns aren't in a class with the ones in our own country," Phillips told me. The same goes with pistols and revolvers, to his way of thinking.

Walter's eyes gleamed when he displayed a matched pair of Colt Woodsman target revolvers, one with a 4½ and the other with a 6½ inch barrel. But it is no wonder he was proud of the firearms for they were presented to him by Graham H. Anthony, president and board chairman of the Colt Firearms Company!

"I'm partial to Colt products after my long experience at shooting," he revealed.

After leaving the range-room, we inspected Big Sand Lake, a beautiful stretch of water three miles long and 1½ mile wide that lies directly in front of Bachelor's Paradise. Then I experienced my next big surprise. For the first time in my life I watched a pedigree dog, a German shorthair, actually standing belly-deep along the shore of the lake, and rigidly pointing at fish in the clear water.

"He points fish every chance he gets —and yet he's one of the most valuable hunting dogs I have in my kennels," Walter explained.

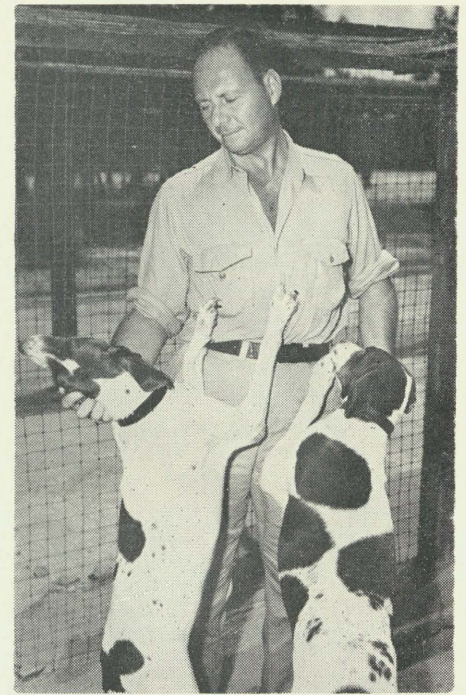
BEHIND Bachelor's Paradise is a smaller lake, a 20-acre body of clear water where Walter and his friends do most of their fishing. Incidentally, no one is permitted to fish there unless they are accompanied by Phillips, and he allows no one to take a fish from the lake unless it tips the scales at five pounds or better. Throughout the years he has used the

best available scientific methods for improving his fish crop in the lake. In 1935 he had it seined for all rough fish. At frequent intervals he fertilizes the waters.

Up until a few years ago, mainly through Walter's ingenuity and love for fishing, he and his friends were pulling man-size tarpon from the attractive 20-acre lake — but don't get the idea that the tarpon fishing was something that simply happened!

Armed with a special permit during 1938-39, he and a staff of assistants started seining for Tarpon from Ft. Myers southward to Cape Sable. Silver Kings, ranging from a foot to three feet in length were transported in 600-gallon tanks to Bachelor's Paradise and released in the lake. Actually 100 were released during the two-year period and tarpon fishing was "tops" until one of Florida's unwelcome freezes a few years ago. Temperatures dropped to 15 degrees—and that was the last of Walter's successful tarpon project.

But don't get the false idea that Walter's sporting interest ends with fishing. Not by a long shot! Although he doesn't admit it, I imagine he is one of Florida's top-flight quail hunters. As a matter of fact he gives the same careful attention to quail hunting as he does to his private business ventures. I was certain of this fact after he accompanied me to what he calls "Fanny Bass Grove." Here he controls 20,000 acres of land that includes an outstanding 75-acre citrus grove and 15,000 acres of pine woods and swamp. During the last 11 years he has actually bought and released 1,500 pairs of quail in the private tract. Most of the birds were brought from Arkansas. In 1948 he released



Dogs, guns and wildlife are Walter Phillips' greatest joys.

200 pair of banded birds but admits he has "never found the first one."

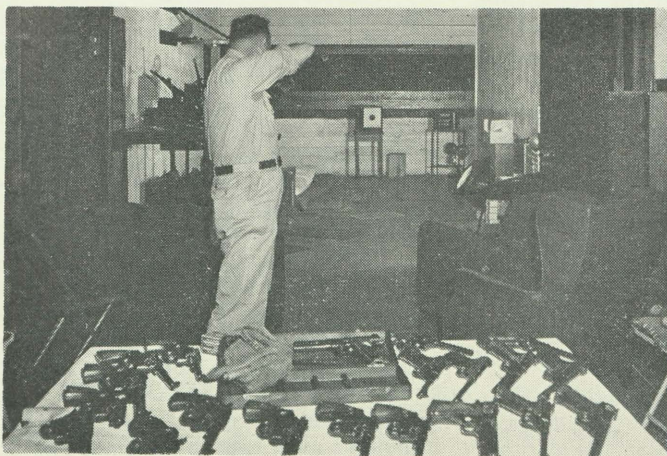
"There is nothing can compete with a Florida quail when it's a matter of survival in this country," he told me.

"Fanny Bass Grove" is fully fenced and posted. During hunting season he employs men to ride the territory and guard it. In addition, Walter is a staggered hunting day addict.

"Law or no law," he told me, "I hunt only every other day."

Today, Walter foresees the end of public hunting grounds in Florida. People who like to hunt should prepare

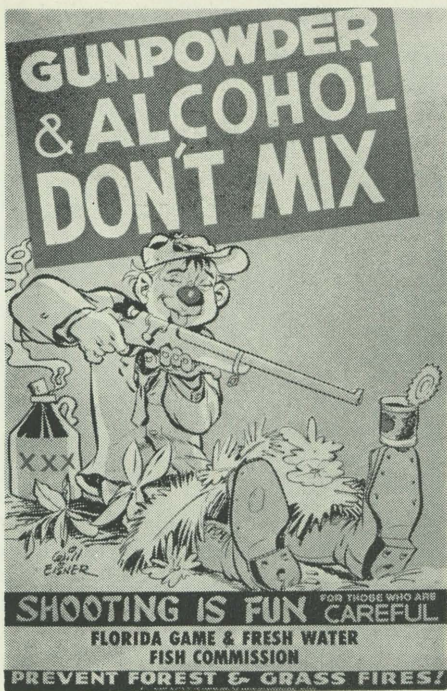
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Walter Phillips takes a bead on target in his private firing range which is backed with 8-inch concrete, 2-inch armorplate, and 2-inch wood planks.

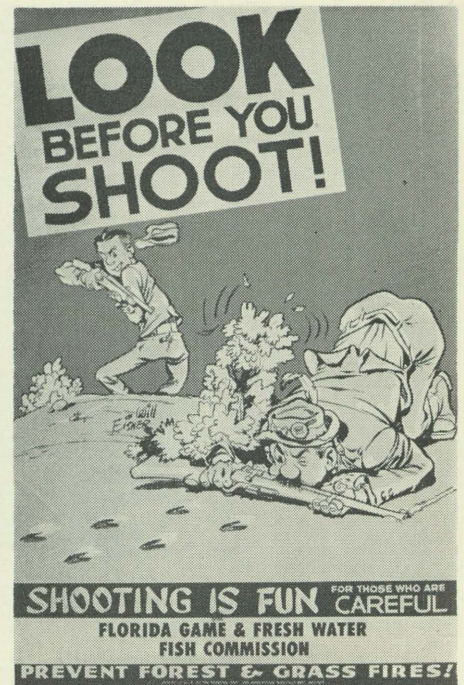


Walter Phillips shows the author a .357 Magnum weighing 45 ounces, with a 6-inch barrel. It will pierce ¼-inch steel plates.



BANG!

YOU ARE DEAD



"I DIDN'T know it was loaded!" Time after time, year after year, the same monotonous refrain of death is heard, especially during the hunting season. Newspaper headlines carry the tragic tales again and again:

BOY ACCIDENTALLY SHOTS PLAYMATE. HUNTER KILLS PARTNER WITH "UNLOADED GUN." POLICE CHARGE BOY WITH SHOOTING SISTER. TWO DIE IN HUNTING ACCIDENT. MAN LOSES HAND WHILE CLEANING RIFLE.

Each of those headlines tells the story of a person being seriously injured or killed through carelessness with firearms. In almost every case, the accident could have been avoided if someone had obeyed even the primary rules of gun-handling.

When I was a lad one of the boys who played with our gang had only one eye. He had lost an eye from a "BB" pellet striking his eyeball. This wasn't an accident that could not have been prevented. It wasn't even an accident, strictly speaking. Four boys were shooting at each other with "BB" guns—playing. Fred was the unlucky one—he was hit in the eye.

Immediately after the accident the parents of the boys confiscated the "BB" guns and told their sons that never again would they give them any kind of a firearm. A just punishment for the boys, you say! And yet not one of these boys had been given any instructions in the use of firearms or told of the potential death

hidden in any firearm. These boys were absolutely innocent of firearm safety, a "must" when presenting a youngster with a firearm be it "BB" gun or any other firearm.

Every father should remember that, when giving a young son or daughter a first gun. The young ones look to the adults for advice—someone who will give them sound dope based on fact. If the father doesn't know, he certainly should consult someone who does. The law prevents Father from letting Junior solo in the family car without instruction. By the same token, every Father should make it his business to see that Junior knows about firearm safety before he is turned loose on the unsuspecting world.

Carelessness or lack of knowledge of firearm safety isn't confined to youngsters with their first firearm. I remember vividly an incident in the Ocala National Forest, year before last. Two veteran deer hunters were driving back to camp after a morning hunt. In the back seat were two deer hounds, and on the floor of the car in the back—two loaded 12 gauge shotguns. It was a perfect bobby trap, just waiting for someone to set it off. As the car came even with our campsite and cookfire which was only about

thirty feet from the road, one of the hounds became excited and jumped down on the guns. There was a sudden explosion. A hole was blown through the door and buckshot sprayed through our camp. One pellet went through the tent of a sleeping man. Another ricocheted off a post and hit someone on the boot. Another whistled over the head of a man who was sitting on a stump directly in the line of fire. We found where all the pellets had gone and yet, miraculously, no one was hurt.

We all ran out to the car from which the shot had come, but before we got there the old gent who owned the gun had reached in the car and brought the gun outside. In his extreme nervousness he had pumped another shell in the gun and was pointing it at someone standing nearby. Well, you can imagine the heated and uncomplimentary remarks that followed. The old man was threatened with everything from a broken head to lynching. I reported him to the authorities for carrying a loaded gun in the car, which is strictly against the rules of the Ocala Hunt. But, all in all, what good will anything do except to educate that man and thousands like him in firearm safety. He could have killed all of us and yet only say he was sorry or sing that song—"I didn't know the gun was LOADED". I was so angry and scared at the time that I couldn't even talk to the man and he had packed up and gone before I cooled off enough to preach a little speech about firearm safety.

by
E. P. Ray, Jr.

ANOTHER incident last year at the same campground in the Ocala National Forest could have resulted in a dead man. The fellows at the camp were shooting with high-powered rifles at tin cans set not more than forty yards away, probably closer. There was no backstop whatsoever. Bullets whistled through the woods back of camp like demons on the prowl. Finally, one of the bullets ricocheted off something and went through the walls of the outhouse which one of the hunters had just left two minutes before. Strangely enough, all the men that were shooting were sober and supposedly of average intelligence. Yet when I asked them later on if any one of them had any previous instruction in the use of firearms, or firearm safety, they all said "No."

All they knew was how to load and fire. If, as the old saying goes: "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure"—so with these men. If only

I personally think that the first and foremost rule of firearm safety is **NEVER POINT A GUN, WHETHER LOADED OR UNLOADED, AT ANYTHING UNLESS YOU WANT TO KILL IT.** This applies to yourself and all humans and animals. However the Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturing Institute list the Ten Commandments of Safety as follows:

1. **Treat every gun with the respect due a loaded gun.**
2. **Carry only empty guns, taken down or with the action open, into your automobile, camp and home.**
3. **Always be sure that the barrel and action are clear of obstructions.**
4. **Always carry your gun so that you can control the direction of the muzzle, even if you stumble.**
5. **Be sure of your target before you pull the trigger.**
6. **Never point a gun at anything**

it in your car to avoid accidental discharge.

"Unload gun before entering a tent, cabin or any building where there may be people—your own house or a hunting camp.

"When with another hunter, keep gun muzzle pointed in a safe direction. Watch that he doesn't swing his gun toward you.

"When two hunters come to a fence the gun actions should be opened. One holds guns while other climbs over and takes them as second follows.

"If alone, climb over carrying gun with muzzle pointed away. If you prefer, put gun through on ground, with action open and muzzle pointed away from you, before you climb over.

"Working through a "blow down" or across boulder-covered ground, hold gun securely in crook of arm. Keep safety device on but ready to release if game appears.

"If the gun has a bolt action or a

SUDDEN DEATH LURKS IN EVERY GUN... LOADED OR UNLOADED--BEWARE OF IT!

they had been told about firearm safety when they received their first guns, this sort of thing would never occur.

These incidents are not isolated ones. Near accidents with firearms happen constantly. My father used to hunt with a fellow whose left arm was missing below the elbow. A shotgun in his own hands had removed it. A fellow I knew was killed when a shotgun, which he was pulling toward him by the barrel, discharged into his stomach. Another man, with whom I was slightly acquainted, was killed while examining a souvenir pistol. A teen-age boy was killed by his buddy on a lake near my home town. They had a .22 rifle in the boat with them to shoot ducks, or so they thought—only it killed a boy first. None of these things would have happened if the rules of firearm safety had been known and practiced.

you do not want to shoot.

7. **Never leave your gun unattended, unless you unload it first.**
8. **Never climb a tree or fence with a loaded gun.**
9. **Never shoot at a flat, hard surface or the surface of the water.**
10. **Do not mix gunpowder and alcohol.**

The Boy Scouts of America have the following to say about firearm safety:

"When you pick up any kind of a firearm examine its cartridge chamber carefully with the muzzle pointing in a safe direction and without touching the trigger.

"Open and leave open the action of any gun you pass to another person.

"Should you be handed a gun with the action closed, open it at once and look into the chamber.

"Unload your gun before you place

lever or a pump action, work it several times to eject any cartridges that may be in the magazine. You do this to protect yourself and other persons who might be injured if the gun was accidentally fired."

If there was only one reason for joining the Boy Scouts, firearm safety would be it. As you see from their rules, the Scouts are taught the essentials of firearm safety. When youngsters are taught to shoot and hunt correctly, the danger of accidents is greatly reduced. A trained shooter is usually a safe one, and safe shooters are usually taught while they are young.

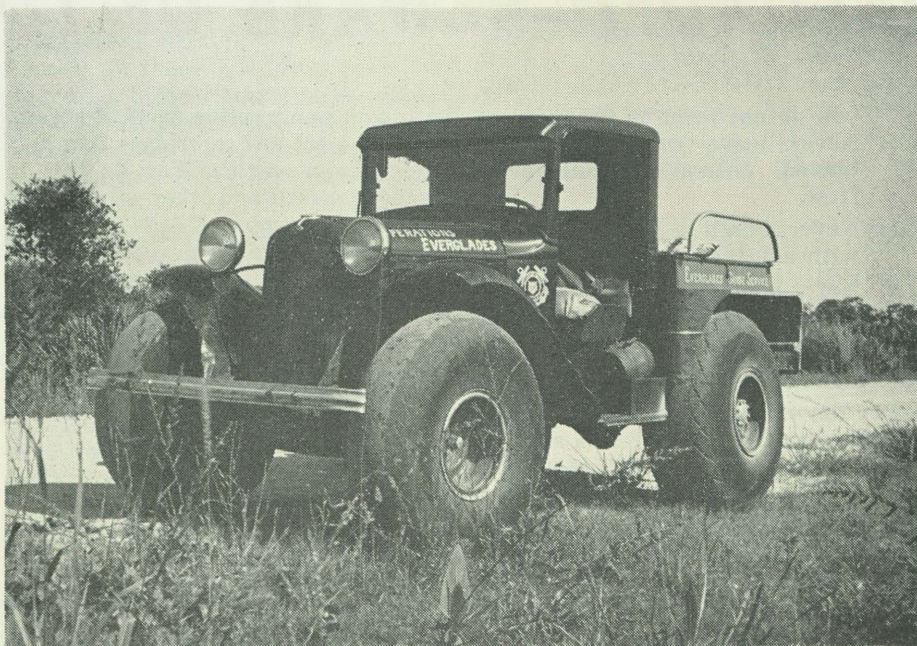
All these safety rules aren't meant for the other fellow, they are made for you—each and every one of you who will ever handle a firearm. I know that you have broken the rules, but try to obey them all. Remember these rules—**YOUR LIFE DEPENDS ON IT!**

Operations Everglades

by
Phil Francis



Beauty spot of Big Cypress Swamp, Tarpon Lake is covered with a canopy of water lettuce, a lovely pale green plant which closely resembles garden lettuce. Such remote spots as this are attainable only by the most efficient methods of Everglades transportation such as the modern, high-powered swamp buggies. Gradual evolution of the swamp buggy proved to be the key which finally opened the most jungle-like areas of the 'Glades.



Designed and built for Everglades travel by George Espenlaub, this swamp buggy is equipped with heavy-duty clutch, powerful truck transmission, low-ratio rear end, narrow-gauge axles and heavy bomber-type tires. It takes deep water, mud, stumps and narrow trails easily into stride. The 18.00x16 tires stand nearly four feet tall, giving clearance, traction and buoyancy for swamp travel.

FLORIDA's fairyland, the Everglades region and Big Cypress Swamp, is a seemingly unreal land of mystery and enchantment which quickens the pulse of adventurous Nature-lovers such as George Espenlaub, of Clewiston. To him, every trip into this territory, which, unlike any other place in the world, is best described as an enormous grassy lake dotted with wooded islands and pitted with cypress jungles, is a never-to-be-forgotten experience.

"To know the Everglades is to love them," Espenlaub claims, and he is probably right, for few men know the Everglades better or love them more than he does.

An Everglades explorer for nearly 30 years, Espenlaub's enthusiasm for the region remains undampened, and his familiarity with it has bred love rather than contempt. Each trip into the 'Glades region is a new adventure for him; perhaps he'll make a new archaeological discovery, blaze a new trail into unknown regions, find a perfect new campsite, or view some previously unnoticed scene of beauty.

Furthermore, Espenlaub, such is his love for the area, has inaugurated a unique guide service, "Operations Everglades," which enables interested persons to visit America's Last Frontier with one of America's last frontiersmen.

Back in 1928, he built what is thought to be the first swamp buggy in existence by equipping a Model "T" Ford pick-up truck with an extra transmission, heavy-duty rear end, and greatly oversized tires. He was able to cover a lot of Everglades territory in that old rig, visiting areas never before seen by white men, and collecting archaeological knick-knacks, studying the ancient mounds of the vanished Caloosa Indians, and capturing rare and dangerous reptiles.

THESE early explorations were made during his rather meager spare hours away from his Clewiston machine shop. Then, a few years ago, the

Photos by the Author

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

call of the 'Glades grew too strong for Espenlaub, and he promptly sold his business to take to the Everglades as a full-time occupation. He built a new, super-deluxe swamp buggy which he christened "Operation Everglades," and went into the guide-service business.

Designed and equipped for Everglades travel, the new buggy is equipped with a heavy-duty clutch, powerful truck-type transmission, low-ratio rear end, narrow-gauge axles and the heavy, bomber-type tires. The vehicle takes to deep water and narrow trails without any difficulty, and splashes through mud and around and over stumps with ease. It is capable of blazing its own trails through five-foot stands of dense sawgrass, with the 18.00x16 tires, which stand nearly four feet tall, giving it the necessary clearance, traction and bouyancy for such travel.

Although all modern swamp buggies are actually a product of evolution rather than invention, Espenlaub comes as close as anyone to being the inventor of this type of vehicle.

With his new swamp buggy, Espenlaub is able to visit one of the very few wild regions in the United States which remain virtually unspoiled by mankind. Hundreds of thousands of beautiful birds fill the air above it, reptiles slither along its damp floors, and mammals of all sorts still abound in their natural wild state in its woods and plains.

The streams and lakes of the swamp regions teem with fishes, many of which are rare specimens valuable to collectors of tropical marine life. Myriad exotic plants flourish in the dankest jungle recesses of the 'Glades, and many of them are plants which are native to no other region in the world.

Poisonous snakes are plentiful, but actually far less numerous than popularly supposed, since most of them are shy and secretive and usually stay far out of reach of a human being. And, of course, many alligators can always be seen in the lakes and swampy areas.

You may travel the United States from Maine to Canada and from Washington to Florida, but you'll never see anything else quite like the Everglades and Big Cypress Swamp regions of Southern Florida. Thanks to frontiersmen like George Espenlaub, this strange and exciting land is now open to all through services like "Operations Everglades."



The swamp buggy easily negotiates rugged terrain such as this, blazing its own trail through a five-foot stand of thick sawgrass.

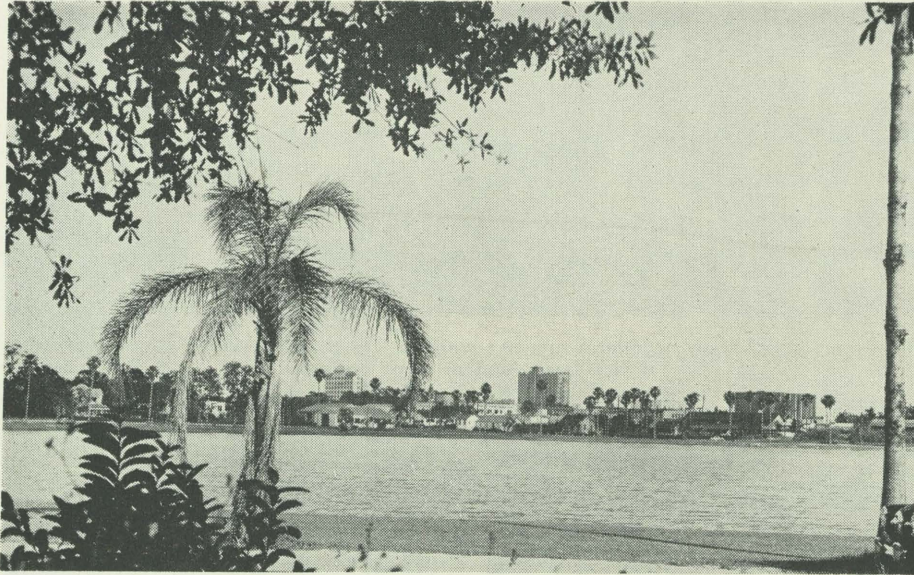


Unlike any other area in the world, the swamp regions of Southern Florida are a veritable fairyland, awe-inspiring in their enormity, and deeply mysterious in their serene natural beauty.



Examining rare plants that grow in profusion in the 'Glades, Henry Espenlaub inspects a large custard apple, while George Espenlaub is intrigued by an uncommon vine and Paul Frank looks at the interesting leaf formation of an air plant.

"J-D" CAN BE STOPPED!



Lakeland's beautiful Lake Wire was transformed from a detriment to an asset.

A MILLING CROWD of spectators pressed closely to the edge of the lake. Strangers, curious, edged into the crowd wondering what tragedy had taken place.

Upon the surface of the lake thousands of weak, struggling fish could be seen. Here and there people were busily engaged in scooping up the larger fish that had surfaced close to shore. But in this whole crowd one colored woman was the center of attention. She was knee deep in water, directly in front of a sign reading: FISH POISON DO NOT EAT. In her arms she was holding a huge catfish. A police officer shouted to her from the shore. "Don't you see that sign?"

She turned around, looked at him, and said, "Yas suh."

He asked, "Don't you know these fish were poisoned?"

"Yah, suh."

"Well, don't you know you might die if you ate one?"

She nodded, said "Yas suh", and clutching the big fish to her ample bosom, splashed to shore and strode majestically past the officer.

He watched her go, shaking his head. "People who don't believe a sign when—"

She whirled on him. "Who I gonna believe—dat sign or my stomach? Us been eating them fish for foh days and ain't none of us sick yet!" With that she turned and stalked away through the crowd.

There was something behind all this. Something mighty interesting.

It stemmed from a story which might

have appeared in any newspaper in the country, the kind of story which, tragically, does appear time and time again. In this instance it was in the LAKELAND LEDGER, and it told of three boys, between twelve and fourteen years of age, arrested for robbery. "We didn't really want the stuff we stole," one of them told police. We just did it because it was exciting and we didn't have anything else to do."

Fred W. Jones, hunting and fishing editor of the Lakeland paper, read that story. He knew one of the boys, knew his parents, and believed what the boy said. But, the boy was faced with a long term in reform school which might, or might not, help him. His parents were heartbroken. Thinking about it, Mr. Jones knew there was nothing he could do to help the boy now. But what about the hundreds, the thousands, the fifty million kids across the United States who might be in the same situation at some time?

An inveterate fisherman, Jones' thoughts turned to fishing. He knew about the work of Better Fishing, Inc., a non profit organization, with headquarters at 509 South Wabash Avenue, Chicago, which last year helped 282 cities and town provide fishing facilities for children. Most of these cities had set aside only one day a summer for the children; some of them one day a week; some of them had provided special lakes for the kids; some had used abandoned quarries; and some had simply stocked a swimming pool with fish.

But where anything had been done at all,

**How Lakeland's
"J-D", or Juvenile
Delinquency, hit
the skids when
interested citizens
took concerted
action.**

**by
Orville Fisher**

it had met with tremendous success. Wherever anything had been provided the kids had turned out in such numbers as to surprise even the most optimistic sponsors for the movement. In Charleston, S. C., in Ogden, Utah, in Mount Vernon, Illinois, in cities from coast to coast the youngsters had turned out by the thousands. And more important, everywhere such a plan had been attempted the authorities quickly recognized it as one of the most effective means yet devised to combat juvenile delinquency.

The governors of at least eight states have written BFI praising those fishing programs. Mayors and probation officers by the hundreds were enthusiastic. After the plan was tried in Mount Airy, N. C., Mr. J. W. Shaw, the juvenile probation officer stated publicly:

"This program cannot die! Personality complexes, physical defects, mental quirks and retardations all vanish when boys are fishing. From the standpoint of delinquency, reports of even the most minor incidents, have been nonexistent during the three months just passed. Certainly when it is a fact that summer months usually bring on more reports of this sort of thing, we must be willing to admit these weekly fishing excursions have contributed to this good record. I do not recommend its continuation as a complete panacea to juvenile delinquency, but very definitely, I feel that at long last, a tangible inroad has been found."

Both the mayor and the chief of police of Mount Airy backed up Mr. Shaw's opinion, with Chief M. W. Boone saying: "I feel

(Continued on Page 26)

RAREST BIRD OF ALL

The Story of Whitney Eastman, His Life-long Dream, and the Ivory-bill.

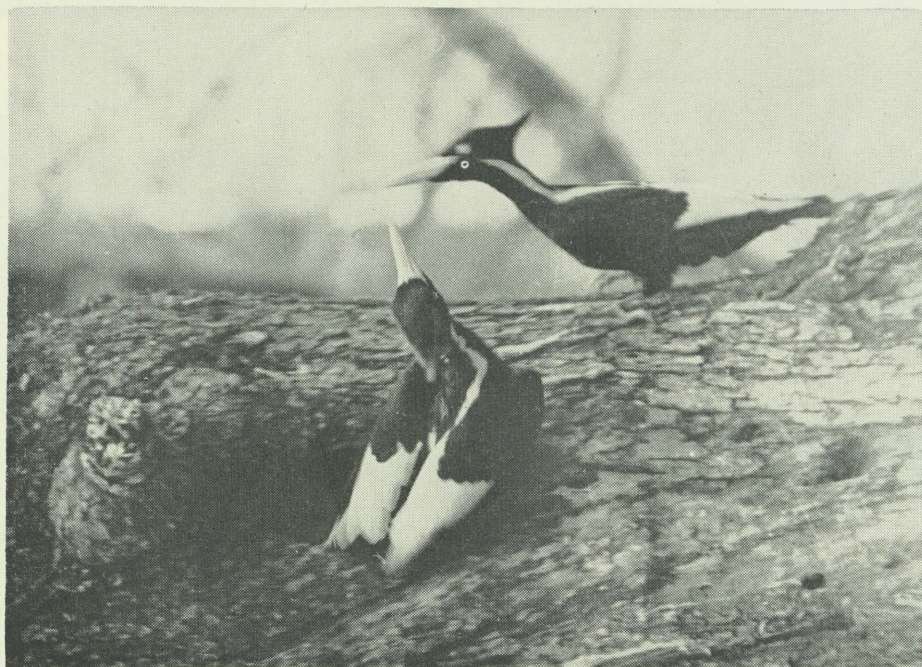
BEHIND every discovery there lies a story. The story is usually woven of the trials and tribulations, disappointments and heartbreaks, and work and worry which are part and parcel of every explorer's life until he finally arrives at the golden moment of discovery. The story behind the recent discovery of America's rarest bird, the ivory-billed woodpecker, is no exception to the rule.

Whitney H. Eastman, Minneapolis business executive and Audubon Society member, was the explorer who had to surmount all of the troublesome obstacles in this case. His story is an unusual one because he believed in his dream that the birds, which everyone else was sure had disappeared long ago, still existed somewhere, and he followed his quest to its successful conclusion.

As a member of the Audubon Society, Eastman was familiar with the fact that the ivory-bills were supposed to be extinct. But he also knew that each year the Society receives dozens of reports from persons stating that they have seen an ivory-bill. But all of the reports proved false, and usually resulted from someone confusing the pileated woodpecker with the ivory-billed woodpecker. The catch was the pileated woodpeckers were abundant, while the ivory-bills were not.

But Eastman had the feeling that there must be an ivory-billed woodpecker left somewhere in America, so he began his long, expensive, heart-breaking search. He slowly and painfully traced down lead after lead regarding the bird, and always ended up with the disappointing fact that each lead was false. And still he kept on.

Actually, he based his long search on the single fact that the ivory-billed woodpecker can live only in areas where there is an abundant supply of large trees such as sweet



Male and female Ivory-billed Woodpeckers, rarest of all North American birds. (Photo by A. A. Allen, from National Audubon Society.)

gum, bottomland red oak, laurel and water oak, pine and cypress. With the gradual cutting and leveling of the virgin forests of America, the natural habitat of the ivory-billed woodpeckers gradually disappeared, and with it disappeared North America's largest woodpecker.

Eastman knew that the ivory-bills, if they existed at all, must be found in stands of large virgin trees. So, by gradually tracing out all of his leads, good and bad, he finally arrived at the conclusion that there were only two places left in America where he might find the vanished bird. One was the Big Cypress Swamp, and the other was the Apalachicola River region, both in Florida.

So he searched the Big Cypress Swamp of southern Florida, and, again, he found no ivory-billed woodpeckers. That left only one area in all of North America for him to search. So he began what he knew would be his final search, along the

Apalachicola River in Calhoun County in northern Florida, knowing that it was his last chance—either he would find the bird here, or it no longer existed.

In March of 1949, Eastman organized his last searching party. With fellow bird enthusiasts, all equipped with binoculars, color cameras, and other paraphernalia necessary to bird-watching, he moved into Calhoun County. Then, one day, his search ended—he had found the last ivory-billed woodpeckers in all North America. And he found not one, but two ivory-bills.

"It was the greatest thrill of my bird-watching life," Eastman said happily, "when I brought that ivory-bill into my glasses."

So Eastman had made his discovery, but he kept it quiet for over a year, fearing that the only remaining ivory-bills might be lost to the world if the wrong people found out about it before the birds could be protected.

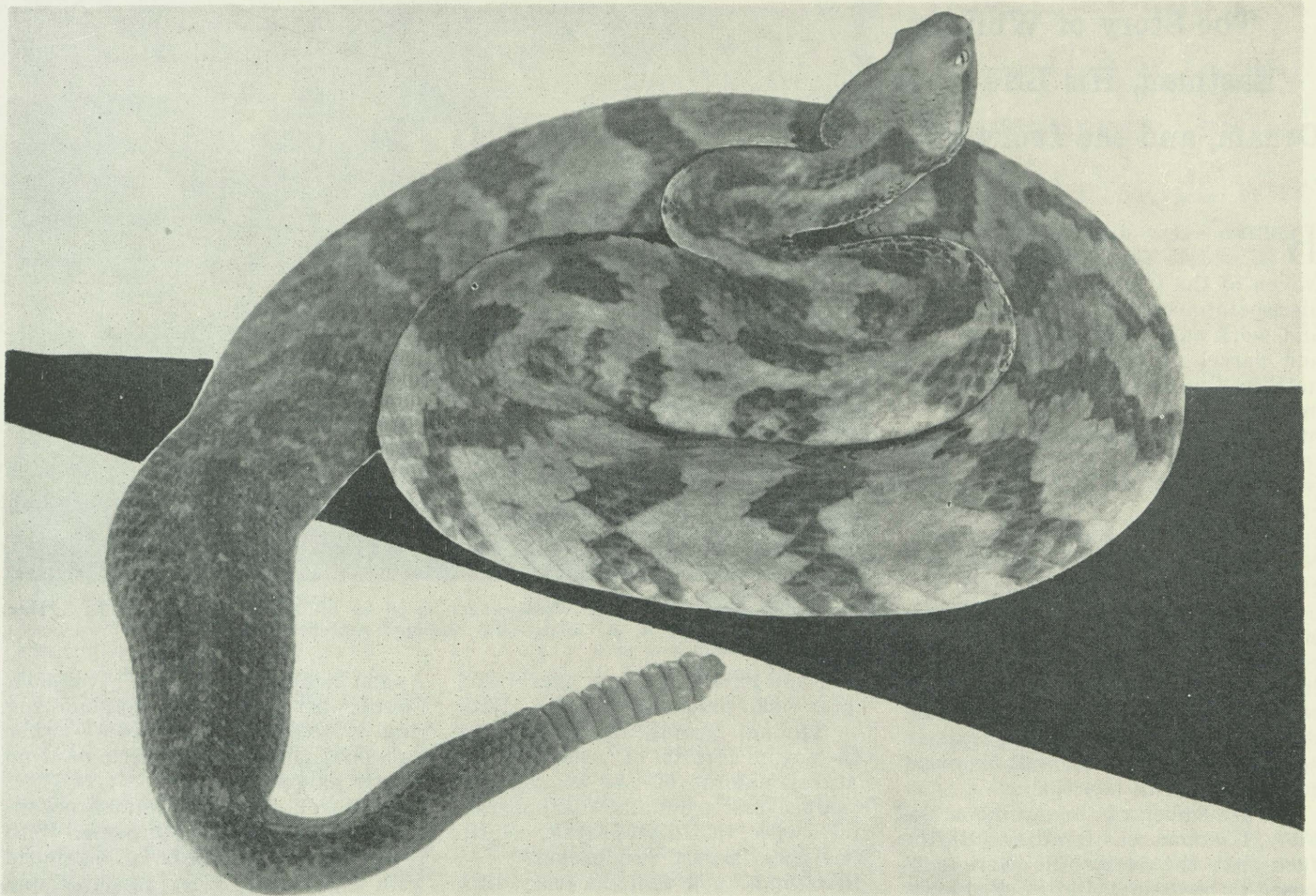
Finally he turned over all his notes to the National Audubon Society and retired from the search for personal reasons — mainly because his wife was lost in a plane accident over Lake Michigan. But he still retained enough interest to pay a salary to

by
Wallace B. Finlay

(Continued on Page 34)



KNOW YOUR REPTILES



THE CANE - BRAKE RATTLESNAKE

THE cane-brake rattlesnake is found from Virginia southward to northern Florida, westward into Texas, and northward up the Mississippi Valley to Missouri and Illinois. In some parts of the country it is called "timber rattler," but this name is not strictly correct, for the true timber rattler is a smaller snake which replaces the cane-brake rattler in the more northern and upland portions of the United States.

The cane-brake rattler is rather rare in Florida, and restricted to the northern part of the state. The Reptile

Institute has records of the form from many of the counties bordering Georgia, and from the next tier of counties below these. The southernmost record for the species in Florida

**By ROSS ALLEN
and
WILFRED T. NEILL**

Ross Allen's Reptile Inst., Silver Springs

is about 15 miles northeast of Gainesville, in Bradford County.

The cane-brake rattlesnake is very different in color and pattern from the more familiar Florida diamond-back rattler; even a novice can easily tell the two apart. The discovery of a cane-brake rattler often results in much comment, and generally brings forth an article in the local paper about a "new kind" of rattlesnake!

The cane-brake rattler may be recognized by its grayish or pinkish color, with irregular black cross-bands. The tail is usually velvety brown or

(Fifth in a series of authoritative articles written exclusively for **FLORIDA WILDLIFE** about the reptiles that Florida sportsmen are apt to encounter.—ED.)

black. There is an orange or rusty red stripe down the mid-line of the back. As in other rattlers, the head is much wider than the neck, the pupil of the eye is a vertical slit by day (it becomes quite round at night), and there is a pit between the eye and the nostril. The tail terminates in a rattle. An average specimen is about 4 feet in length.

These snakes thrive about overgrown fields and abandoned farms, often living beneath the floor of a deserted cabin or barn. They also occur in thickly wooded areas on hill-sides bordering lakes or streams, or in brushy hollows full of fallen logs and rank weeds. During the hotter part of the year, they may be found in low areas of heavy timber, and sometimes in actual swamp. The great cane-brakes, or cane swamps, once widespread in the Southeast, are nearly gone today, and the common name of "cane-brake" rattlesnake is no longer very appropriate.

In latter part of August or September the female cane-brake rattler retires to a hollow log, abandoned fox burrow, rock pile, or other suitable retreat, there to give birth to a litter of living young. The number of young may range from five to 13, with eight or nine being usual. The babies are similar to the parents in color, although somewhat paler and with a yellowish tail tip.

Soon after birth, the young snake sheds the epidermis, or outer layer of the skin. The epidermis first comes loose about the edges of the jaws. Then the snake, by rubbing its head against the ground or nearby weeds, peels the epidermis back over its snout. The soft, moist epidermis clings to the ground or to the grass stems and the snake then literally crawls out of the old "skin", turning it wrong-side-out in the process! The shed is left lying in the grass, and the young snake rambles away to fend for itself.

Baby cane-brake rattlers feed upon mice, young rats, shrews, and occasionally upon lizards and small birds. Larger specimens restrict their diet to warm-blooded prey, especially rodents. Examination of the stomach contents of 40 adult cane-brake rattlers revealed mainly wood rats, barn rats, cotton rats, white-footed mice, pocket gophers, and field sparrows. Occasionally a squirrel or baby rabbit is eaten, but this is seldom.

At birth, the cane-brake rattler is about 15 or 16 inches long. Growth is very rapid, however; the snake more

(Continued on Page 35)



Private planes bring fishermen from all over the country to Eagle's Nest Fishing Camp's 2,300-ft. runway.

"Flying" Fish Camp

"This is LaGuardia Field, New York City, calling. What is the ceiling at Florida's Eagle's Nest Fishing Camp? Are the bass and bream striking?"

This gibberish, purely imaginary for the moment, is neither far-fetched nor lacking in realism. While fishing and flying as a combination may smack of hodgepodge to some, it is an actuality at "Eagle's Nest" on Lake Griffin, seven miles north of Leesburg, Florida's first airplane landing field built for exclusive use in conjunction with a fishing camp.

Mr. and Mrs. Gerald L. Garriott, owners of the camp, keep a two-seated Aeronca plane parked at the door of their combination, pine-panelled office and home. Since they purchased the 160-acre camp, about two years ago, approximately 150 airplanes have landed and taken off from the 2,300-foot runway. These planes, bringing fishermen for a day or two, sometimes a week, month, or even for the season, come from such divergent points as New York City, Dallas, Boston, Pittsburgh, Chicago, Atlanta, Cincinnati, Detroit, Indianapolis, Philadelphia and Los Angeles.

"Jerry" Garriott, originally from Bloomington, Illinois, was in the electrical business during World War II. Electrical parts were scarce then, help was hard to find, and automobile gasoline was strictly rationed. Jerry, however, had been an airplane pilot since 1943, and the government would still release gasoline to operate planes. That was actually the emergency beginning of Garriott's using airplanes in his business.

It was the flip of a coin, or, more ac-

curately, the flip of a key, for Garriott to divert his Aeronca from business to pleasure and back again. It is true that other sportsmen have long employed airplanes in flying to and from their angling destinations. But Jerry found a "missing link" in the fact that there were not many airfields, emergency or otherwise, on which to land planes near fishing camps. It was usually necessary to fly to some centrally-located point, such as a city airport, and then hire a cab or car to complete the trip to the fishing grounds.

Garriott pondered the problem, and finally arrived at the logical conclusion that numerous fishermen and other sportsmen would appreciate the opportunity to land their private planes right at the cabin doors of their favorite fishing camp.

So evolved the Eagle's Nest Camp. At present, Garriott's camp has a completed 2,300-foot runway running southwest and northeast, and a projected 2,100-foot strip extending northwest and southeast. There are, however, no landing lights, so airplanes are able to use the landing strips during daylight hours only. Eventually, Jerry plans to construct miniature hangars, comparable to automobile garages, so his fishing guests can "fly right into their own cabins."

The Eagle's Nest Camp is old in years—about 22—and birds of flight, natural and now mechanical, have always been associated with the name of the fishing lodge. So it seems that the modern air age and the centuries old art of fishing have finally been successfully combined into pleasurable pastimes at the Eagle's Nest.

—S. R. WINTERS

The Wildlife Story

Like Jack's beanstalk, it just grew and grew and never stopped.

Almost as quick as the panther it strives to protect, the State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission's **FLORIDA WILDLIFE** magazine has grown and grown and grown.

The October edition of the magazine has 40 pages, an increase of 16 pages over the September issue. This makes **FLORIDA WILDLIFE** one of the largest state-sponsored wildlife conservation magazines in the country on the basis of number of pages.

Size isn't the only field in which the magazine has ballooned. Since the publication was founded in 1947, its circulation has grown from 1,300 to 20,000. And that's not all. Editor Bill Snyder feels confident **FLORIDA WILDLIFE'S** subscription list will grow to 50,000 within the next few months.

This increase in circulation not only sells the commission's fish and game conservation program, it also sells Florida.

A look at the magazine's circulation list indicates that the **FLORIDA WILDLIFE** has subscribers in all of the 48 states and in a great many foreign countries, too.

The nearly 300 foreign subscribers of the magazine live in such countries as French West Africa, Japan, Netherlands, Germany, Italy, France, Switzerland, Hawaii, the Philippines, Norway, India and scores of others including most of the countries in this hemisphere.

When you see this list you ask the question, "How did the magazine become so well known in such a short time?" All the reasons are not known, but it seems that word of mouth played a large part in the growth of **WILDLIFE'S** popularity. Many people who write in say friends who have been in Florida told them about it. Many U. S. subscribers say they first saw copies in their doctor's office or in a barber shop.

To best point out the phenomenal growth of **FLORIDA WILDLIFE**, you have to go back to June of 1947. That's the month Bill Weeks single-handedly put out the first edition. The inaugural issue consisted of 16 pages, and was mailed out free of charge to 1,300 persons.

Weeks continued to serve as editor of the publication until June of this year, when he resigned. Bill Snyder, who joined the staff as associate editor in time for the July



Charley Anderson, picture editor, measures artwork while Editor Bill Snyder (center) and Bob Dahne look on.

1947 edition, took over the editor's chair at that time.

Snyder was formerly a newspaper and publicity man. He worked on both of the St. Petersburg newspapers and did publicity work for several groups connected with show business. In addition, the former crime reporter was the first public relations man for National Airlines and was that company's first passenger. Snyder says at that time the line consisted solely of two planes, two pilots and one mechanic.

Charley Anderson, who was photographer for Ringling Bros. circus, was also added to the growing staff.

Then in December 1947, **WILDLIFE** took its first step toward expansion and increased its size to 24 pages.

All the while, **WILDLIFE** was being mailed free of charge. On August of 1949, the magazine had a circulation of 18,000. The cost of production necessitated charging for the publication. The subscription rate was set at one dollar a year beginning with the September edition. That rate still is in force.

Naturally, the subscription rate hurt circulation. Out of the 18,000 persons who had been receiving the magazine free, the magazine now had 4,250 persons on its mailing list.

By PAUL EINSTEIN

(Reprinted from Tallahassee Sunday Democrat)

After the magazine gained wider acceptance the circulation began growing. The 20,000 circulation of today is being increased at the rate of 350 a week without a subscription drive. However, Snyder has planned a subscription campaign commencing in November to boost sales even more.

The **WILDLIFE** editor says the magazine may even jump to 48 pages before too long.

Another member of the magazine staff is Bob Dahne. Dahne has had considerable writing experience and serves as associate editor. He recently published a book entitled "Salt Water Fishing," (Henry Holt & Co., Inc., New York City), and, in his off-hours, is working on a book on fresh water angling.

The most recent addition to the staff is Gardner Wilson, who worked with Ringling Bros. circus for 17 years. Wilson will sell the advertising space in the magazine, and is working with O. H. McMillan, formerly with the Commission's law enforcement division.

Editor Snyder has been careful in the selection of ads for **FLORIDA WILDLIFE**. He points out that beer and whiskey ads are prohibited because of the great number of children who come in contact with the magazine. Complimentary ads are also banned.

Snyder emphasized the fact that when the magazine starts making money, the funds received will be placed into the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission's general fund and be used in the commission's conservation program.

REGULATIONS FOR 1950-51 HUNTING SEASON

OPEN SEASON FOR TAKING GAME BIRDS AND ANIMALS					OPEN SEASON FOR TAKING MIGRATORY BIRDS			
SPECIES	BUCK DEER With one or more visible antlers	TURKEY	QUAIL	SQUIRREL	RAIL & GALLINULES (Marsh Hens)	WATERFOWL & COOT Ducks Geese Coot	DOVE	
Day's Bag.....	1	2	10	Cat Squirrel—12 Fox Squirrel—3	15	4 2 Canada 3 Blue	10	
Season's Bag.....	2	3				Duck Stamp required for Duck and Geese		
First District.....	Nov. 23-Jan. 5—First four days open. Mon., Tues. and Fri. Closed thereafter; EXCEPT Hardee, Sar- asota and Manatee Counties closed.	EITHER SEX. Nov. 23-Jan. 5—First four days open. Mon., Tues. and Fri. closed thereafter; EXCEPT Hardee, Her- nando, Sarasota, and Manatee Counties closed.	Nov. 23-Feb. 5—First four days open. Mon., Tues. and Fri. closed thereafter.	Nov. 23-Jan. 5—First four days open. Mon., Tues. and Fri. closed thereafter.	Sept. 15-Nov. 13— Hunting permitted every day.	Nov. 27-Jan. 5—Hunt- ing permitted every day.	Dec. 17-Jan 15—Hunt- ing permitted every day.	
Second District....	Nov. 23-Jan. 5—First four days open. Mon., Tues. and Fri. closed thereafter; EXCEPT Gilchrist, Alachua, Bradford, Clay, Union, and that part of Baker and Colum- bia Counties south of U.S. Highway No. 90 from Jacksonville to Lake City, and that part of Columbia and Suwannee Counties south and east of State Road No. 247 from Lake City to the Su- wannee River closed.	GOBLERS ONLY. Nov. 23-Jan. 5—First four days open. Mon., Tues. and Fri. closed thereafter; EXCEPT Alachua, Bradford, Clay, Union, and that part of Baker and Colum- bia Counties south of U.S. Highway No. 90 from Jacksonville to Lake City, and that part of Columbia and Suwannee Counties south and east of State Road No. 247 from Lake City to Suwan- nee River closed.	Nov. 23-Feb. 5—First four days open. Mon., Tues. and Fri. closed thereafter.	Nov. 23-Jan. 5—First four days open. Mon., Tues. and Fri. closed thereafter.	Sept. 15-Nov. 13— Hunting permitted every day.	Nov. 27-Jan. 5—Hunt- ing permitted every day.	Dec. 17-Jan. 15—Hunt- ing permitted every day.	
Third District.....	Nov. 23-Jan. 5—Hunt- ing permitted every day.	EITHER SEX. Nov. 23-Jan. 5—Hunt- ing permitted every day.	Nov. 23-Feb. 5—Hunt- ing permitted every day.	Nov. 23-Jan. 5—Hunt- ing permitted every day.	Sept. 15-Nov. 13— Hunting permitted every day.	Nov. 27-Jan. 5—Hunt- ing permitted every day.	Dec. 17-Jan. 15—Hunt- ing permitted every day.	
Fourth District.....	Nov. 23-Jan. 5—First four days open. Mon., Tues. and Fri. closed thereafter; Monroe County closed to Key Deer.	EITHER SEX. Nov. 23-Jan. 5—First four days open. Mon., Tues. and Fri. closed thereafter.	Nov. 23-Feb. 5—First four days open. Mon., Tues. and Fri. closed thereafter.	Nov. 23-Jan. 5—First four days open. Mon., Tues. and Fri. closed thereafter.	Sept. 15-Nov. 13— Hunting permitted every day.	Nov. 27-Jan. 5—Hunt- ing permitted every day.	Dec. 17-Jan. 15—Hunt- ing permitted every day; EXCEPT in Dade, Broward and Monroe Counties where the season is Oct 1-Oct. 30	
Fifth District.....	Nov. 23-Jan. 5—First four days open. Mon., Tues. and Fri. closed thereafter.	EITHER SEX. Nov. 23-Jan. 5—First four days open. Mon., Tues. and Fri. closed thereafter.	Nov. 23-Feb. 5—First four days open. Mon., Tues. and Fri. closed thereafter.	Nov. 23-Jan. 5—First four days open. Mon., Tues. and Fri. closed thereafter.	Sept. 15-Nov. 13— Hunting permitted every day.	Nov. 27-Jan. 5—Hunt- ing permitted every day.	Dec. 17-Jan. 15—Hunt- ing permitted every day.	

ALL DATES SHOWN ARE INCLUSIVE.

Opening Day, Closing Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, New Year's Day open to hunting.

Should any one of the above holidays come on a Sunday, the Monday following such holiday will be open to hunting.

BEAR AND PANTHER have been declared to be game animals and they may be taken only during the season established for the taking of deer, turkey, and squirrel.

Killing of doe deer prohibited at all times. Evidence of sex and the heads must remain on carcass while in camp or forest. **Killing of buck deer** without visible antlers prohibited at all times.

Shot Guns must be limited to 3-shell capacity (magazine and chamber combined). Use of

.22 rim fire rifles prohibited when taking deer. Rifles of all kinds prohibited when taking migratory birds.

DAILY SHOOTING HOURS: For deer, turkey, quail, squirrel, one-half hour before sunrise to sunset; for duck, geese, and coot, one-half hour before sunrise to one hour before sunset, except on opening day when shooting will begin at 12 o'clock noon; for rail and gallinule (marsh hen) one-half hour before sunrise to sunset; for dove, 12 o'clock noon until sunset. **KILLING OF PHEASANTS** anywhere in the state prohibited. **SALE OF GAME** prohibited. **POSSESSION OF ANY OF THE ABOVE** except geese, rail, and gallinule (marsh hen), dove, coot, and turkey limited to two days' bag after opening day; possession of geese, rail, and gallinule (marsh hen), dove and coot limited to one day's bag. Possession of turkey limited to 3.

No Open Season—Doe Deer, Buck Deer without visible antlers, Woodcock, Ross's Goose, Snow Goose, Brant, Swan, Snipe, non-game birds.

Unprotected—English Sparrow, Sharp-Shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Goshawk, Great Horned Owl, Crow, Jackdaw, Buzzard, Butcher Bird, Wildcat, Weasel, Skunk, Flying Squirrel, Opossum, Red and Gray Fox, Bobcat, Hare or Rabbit, Raccoon.

GENERAL HUNTING REGULATIONS

(Apply to Native and Migratory Game)

Methods Prohibited—Use of shotgun larger than 10-gauge and of more than 3-shell capacity in magazine and chamber combined (gun must be plugged so as to limit capacity to not more than 3-shell) and fired other than from shoulder; use of .22 rim-fire rifles prohibited when taking deer; use of rifles for taking migratory birds prohibited; shooting birds over baited areas; shooting quail on ground; hunting turkey with dog; hunting or killing deer while swimming; use of artificial light, fire, net trap, snare, poison, salt-lick, or of airplane, automobile, power boat, sail boat, or craft under sail or towed by any aforementioned devices. Use of gun with light in woods or on waters of State at night prohibited.

Transportation—Only as personal baggage permitted, and only by licensed hunter in possession of valid license. Limited as to license. Limited to two days' bag (within State) any calendar week for resident, and two days' bag (within or without State), for non-resident. (Season's bag limits to be observed.)

Common Carrier or Employee—While engaged in such business shall not transport as owner or for another, any game or parts thereof, or birds' nests or eggs, nor receive or possess for shipment unless owner of package is in possession of valid permit from Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.

Sale of Game—Prohibited, except pheasants may be propagated by holders of Game Farm Licenses or imported into the State and sold for food purposes.

Carrying Firearms during closed season in National Forests in Marion, Putnam, Lake, Columbia, Baker, Leon and Liberty Counties and in State owned or State controlled Wildlife Management areas, prohibited.

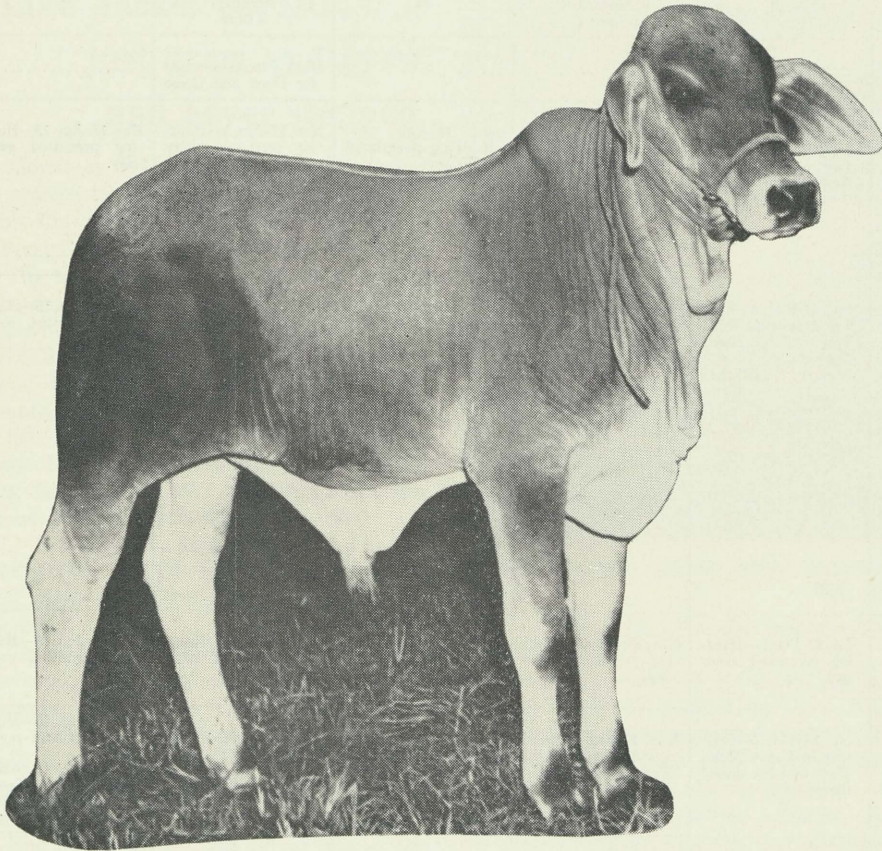
Discharge of Firearms upon, from, and across State Road No. 27 (Tamiami Trail), State Road No. 26, State Road No. 25 (in Palm Beach County), and Highways of Monroe and Broward Counties prohibited.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT YOUR LOCAL COUNTY JUDGE'S OFFICE

Florida Wildlife

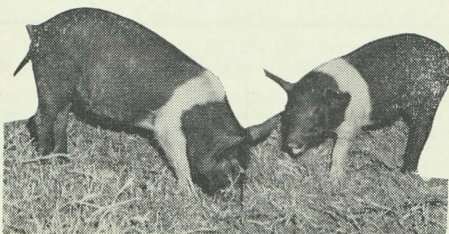
\$12,500.00 IN PRIZES

THE GRAND PRIZES



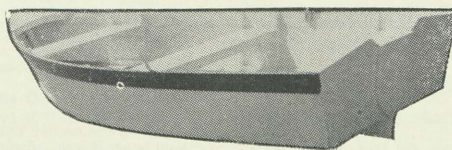
No. 1

Pictured at left is Sir King Gradan 127, a prime registered Brahman Bull Calf raised by Norris Cattle Co., of Ocala, and donated to this contest as only one of the grand prizes. Sir King Gradan is listed as P. H. No. 127/0 and A. B. B. A. No. 58312. Sir King Gradan was sired by King Gradan 17th., No. 687-34577, out of 48th. Miss Rigo Manso, No. 217-44890. He will be awarded to one of the four chapters in Florida selling highest number of subscriptions.



No. 2

Two registered Hampshire Gilts donated by Dryden Circle D Ranch, Marianna, and Dr. Adams, Lake City. These gilts are to be awarded to one of the four chapters in Florida selling highest number of subscriptions.



No. 3

The above Correct Craft Boat, 12 feet in length, was donated by Correct Craft Boats, Inc., Pinecastle and Titusville, as one of the grand prizes awarded to one of the four chapters in Florida selling highest number of subscriptions. Also included with this boat will be one 5-h.p. outboard motor.



Guernsey Heifer

No. 4

One Guernsey Heifer has been donated by Dinsmore Dairy of Jacksonville. This heifer is the fourth grand prize to be awarded to one of the four chapters in Florida selling the highest number of subscriptions.

Numerous Other Prizes

Numerous other prizes awarded in this contest will include everything from trips to Cuba and Kansas City to fishing tackle rods, baits and reels, and from fountain pens to .22-calibre rifles.

Subscription Contest

\$12,500.00 IN PRIZES

Seven thousand members in the 138 Chapters of the Future Farmers of America in Florida are cooperating in this contest.

RULES AND REGULATIONS:

- I. Contest is confined to members of Future Farmers of America in Florida. Open November 1 through December 31, 1950.
- II. Chapter Grand Prizes:
 - A. Received by four (4) chapters selling most subscriptions within State, with highest chapters having first choice. Grand prizes presented to winning chapters at Florida State Fair, Tampa, February 3, 1951. These prizes and donators are as follows: 1. Brahma Bull—Norris Cattle Co., Ocala. 2. Correct Craft Boat—Correct Craft Boats, Inc., Pinecastle and Titusville. 3. Two Hampshire Gilts—Dryden Circle D Ranch, Marianna, and Dr. Adams, Lake City. 4. One Guernsey Heifer—Dinsmore Dairy, Jacksonville.
- III. Individual Grand Prizes:
 - A. Four (4) all-expense round-trips to Cuba from Miami, donated by Dixie Lily Milling Co., of Florida.
 - B. Four (4) all-expense round-trips to Kansas City National Convention, donated by Jackson Feed and Grain Co., Tampa; Hoyt Woodberry, president Eli-Witt Candy and Cigar Co., Tampa; Florida Power and Light, Miami; Hialeah Race Course, Inc.
 - C. These eight prizes awarded as follows:
 1. Trips awarded to two individuals selling most subscriptions in each supervisor's area. (Total, 6 trips.)
 2. Two remaining trips awarded to the advisers of two chapters in State selling most subscriptions.
 3. Individuals in each area selling most subscriptions have first choice of preferred trips.
 4. Choice of trips to Cuba or Kansas City will be optional with winners.
- IV. Chapter Prizes:
 - A. Single chapter in State selling highest average number of subscriptions per total membership will be awarded a registered hog; donor presently unknown; plus 1,000 pounds commercial fertilizer donated by Trueman Fertilizer Co., Jacksonville. This prize cannot be won by any grand-prize winner.
 - B. Single chapter having largest number of members selling ten (10) or more subscriptions each will be awarded a registered hog. Donator presently unknown.
- V. Complimentary Prizes:
 - A. A fine quality, beautifully finished fountain pen will be awarded for every first five (5) or more subscriptions sold by any member of any F. F. A. chapter in the State.
 - B. Fishing tackle prizes of various types will be awarded for the next five (5) or more subscriptions sold by any member of any F. F. A. Chapter in the State.
 - C. A fine Remington .22-calibre, bolt-action rifle, Model 5-14-A, (retail price \$15.35) will be awarded for the next forty (40) subscriptions sold by any member of any F. F. A. Chapter in the State. (Note: A high-quality glass fishing rod and reel will be an optional award in place of rifles when desired.)
 - D. Complimentary prizes also awarded to each chapter adviser when his respective chapter remits required number of subscriptions to the general contest manager. Advisers receive these prizes on following basis:
 1. Modern one-piece aluminum tackle box for first one hundred (100) subscriptions remitted by chapter.
 2. Glass fishing rod for first two hundred (200) subscriptions remitted by chapter.
 3. Fine quality fishing reel for first three hundred (300) subscriptions remitted by chapter. An optional award in the form of a fine repeating shotgun will be given for first three hundred (300) subscriptions submitted by chapter, when desired.
 - E. Other complimentary prizes and donors include: 1. Eger artificial lures—Eger Bait Co., Bartow. 2. Mystic Minnow Kits—Miller Electric Co., Jacksonville. 3. Barracuda artificial lures—Florida Fishing Tackle Mfg. Co., Inc., St. Petersburg. 4. Donations of other prizes to be announced at later date.
- VI. Monthly Prizes:
 - A. Prizes will be awarded to top four individual subscription sellers in State at end of first month of competition (November 1-31). These prizes are as follows:
 1. 10-h.p. gearshift outboard motor with auxiliary fuel tank.
 2. Fine-quality .22-calibre automatic rifle.
 3. Glass Hurricane rod, Pflueger reel, and Statesman line donated by W. N. Mansfield of Southern Tackle Distributors, Miami.
 4. Salt-water rod and reel donated by Ellis T. Fernandez of the Sport Shop, Jacksonville.
- VII. FLORIDA WILDLIFE magazine subscriptions shall be sold at regular rate of one dollar (\$1.00) for each 12-months subscription. No subscription of less than 12-months duration can be accepted.
- VIII. Adviser of each participating chapter shall render a weekly report of his chapter's subscription production each Monday. Report forms, furnished by contest manager, must accompany subscriptions sold by each chapter.
- IX. General contest manager will furnish weekly reports to all chapters in regards to their competitive standings.
- X. Either new or renewal subscriptions will be counted.
- XI. In case of ties, duplicate prizes shall be awarded.
- XII. Donations of any other prizes will be announced as soon as possible.

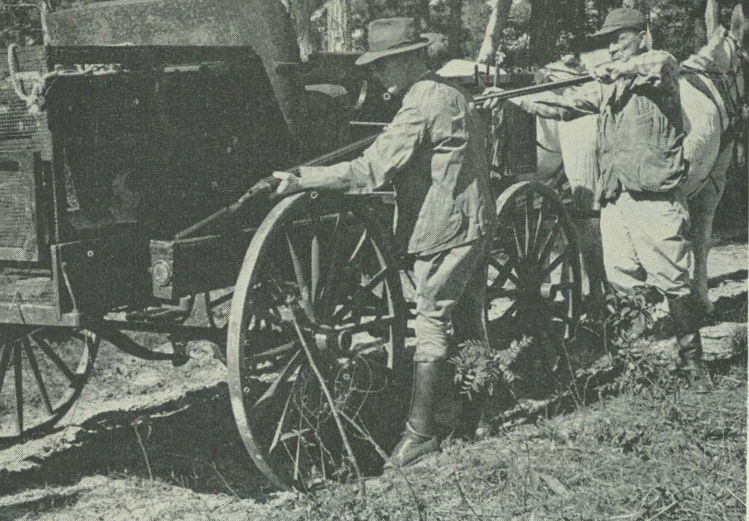
RICHARD E. PARKER—GENERAL CONTEST MANAGER
STATE GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

Don't be

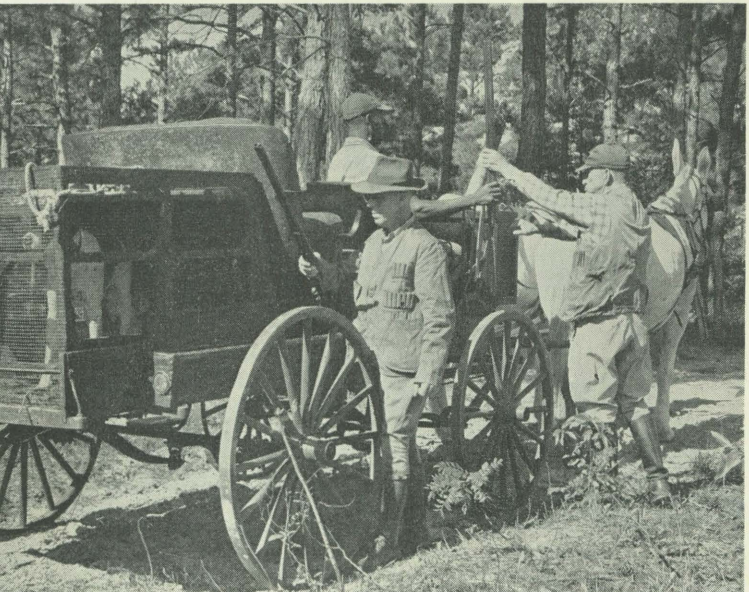
by CHARLES

HUNDREDS of hunters bound for a carefree day or two in the open this fall will wind up in the morgue instead! A terrible prediction but true and one that could be erased with the proper understanding and handling of firearms.

No hunting season in the United States ends without at least 500 hunters being killed and another 3,000 injured by the shots of their fellow huntsmen. This season doubtlessly will be even more a national calamity since it is certain that a record number of hunters will rush to America's woods and fields when the hunting zero-hour arrives. Many of this year's hunters will be inexperienced—a fact that makes it doubly essential to recog-



Never remove your gun from a vehicle barrel-first. It will mean a trip to the hospital or morgue if you accidentally snag the trigger of a loaded gun.



This is the proper way to take loaded or unloaded guns out of your truck or car. You'll be safe when you handle them butt-first with the barrel in the air.



Never use your gun for a crutch or a leaning post. Don't stick the barrel down in the ground for it's easy to foul a muzzle.



Never cross a fence with a loaded gun unless you don't care anything about your companion's safety. Remember too, don't point your gun at anyone.



These fellows are headed to a safe hunting trip. Hand your partner his gun after he crosses the fence and keep the barrels pointed away from each other.

a Corpse

I. ANDERSON

nize that a shotgun or rifle is a lethal weapon that must be fully understood and respected.

Death stalked Florida hunting grounds last season. Five persons were killed by: pulling a shotgun through fence; taking a loaded shotgun from attic; placing a loaded shotgun in automobile; loaded shotgun falling in boat; and one hunter accidentally blasted by companion. Of the 16 injured in hunting accidents, seven were mistaken for either deer or turkey; one resulted from a hunter trying to scare his companion; another, when an obstructed shotgun burst, while another fired a charge into his foot when leaning on his gun.

Hunting can be fun—or dangerous. So be careful.



Don't shoot at a rustle you hear in the bush—it may be another hunter. Never pull your trigger until you've sighted your target.



Here's what can happen when a gun barrel is stuck in the ground. Just pull the trigger and it's likely the gun will explode in your face.



There you are! A quick shot at the rustle in the bush would have made you responsible for killing or injuring your hound-master and his horse.



Never use your gun as a club to beat down the bushes when you start searching for lost game. Remember, a snagged trigger can result in instant death.



Gunpowder, like gasoline, doesn't mix with alcohol. Keep out of trouble by taking your first drink of the day after you're home from your hunting trip.

that the summer fishing program has bridged a gap never before bridged, between the youngsters of our town and the officers, and has benefited the officers as much as the child. I hope this type program can be enlarged to interest all the boys and girls in this community."

Fred Jones believed whole heartedly in the recreational and the character building values of fishing. For an honest sportsman, Jones says, the basic rules of good sportsmanship don't end with the day's hunting or fishing. They are carried on into daily life.

"This is especially true if those rules are learned and practiced while the boy is still young," Jones says. "You give a boy or a girl the chance to learn the laws of sportsmanship, and to practice those laws, and the odds are that they will grow into decent adults."

But Jones wanted something more for the Lakeland children than a chance to fish one day each summer, or even one day a week. He didn't want just a temporary program. He wanted something permanent, something that the children could use year round and for years to come. To be concise, Jones wanted a lake for the kids. A lake especially for the use of children alone.

If the kids were to have their lake certain things must be considered:

1. The lake must be accessible to all the children.
2. It must have a good quota of game fish.
3. It must be for the children, and for the children only.
4. It must be run properly so that it would be a benefit to the City of Lakeland—not a detriment.

Above all, it must not be an average project. It must be good from the very start—and continually kept that way. A great deal of work was to be involved but he knew it would be well worth the trouble.

Here is how the machinery was set in motion that gained for Lakeland, the largest cleared lake in the state, and one of the largest "kids' lakes" in the world.

Jones had not yet decided which of the 11 lakes within the city limits would be best for the kids. After checking them all, he decided on Lake Wire, a beautiful 25-acre lake that was within a five-minute walk of downtown Lakeland. This lake was chosen for various reasons: It was easily accessible; it had a gently sloping shore line that would give a maximum of safety; it was particularly free of any growth around the edge; and, besides, it could stand the type of converting Jones had in mind.

Now Jones went directly to the City

Commission and explained his project, telling in detail how it could be accomplished and how he believed it would benefit the City of Lakeland. "It will help not only the youngsters," he said, "but it will be a boon to the entire city." An understanding Commission passed the resolution setting aside the lake for children on the same day the request was made.

Realizing that their resolution would carry no legal weight the City Commission turned to the State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. The State Commission, alone, had the legal authority to prohibit fishing in a specific lake, or to say who might and who might not fish there. The State Commission gladly went along with the idea and so the way was clear for Florida's first "boys' lake."

The lake Jones had chosen was infested by the weed *Elodea*. This weed is not native to Florida, but had been put in the lake to clear the muddy color of the water. It didn't work. Instead, the *Elodea* multiplied so that its 15 foot lengths soon covered the lake and fishing in it became an impossibility. Besides, Jones knew that the lake was completely out of balance as to the fish in it. By balance, *ecathyotogasis* mean that the fish in the lake do not destroy or interfere in the feeding of each other, and that there should be a proper amount of each type of fish per acre of lake.

(Continued on Page 32)

"Bass Capital of the World"

FUN
FOR
THE
FAMILY



EVERYONE
CATCHES
BIG
BASS

Here at the Bass Capital of the World, where there are more and bigger bass per acre, the whole family can enjoy a week-end vacation and swap stories with the friendliest of folks. Located on the famous St. Johns River, it is only three-fourths of a mile from the equally notable Oklawaha River. The kids catch bream and bass from the dock while the parents angle secluded spots for prize-winning bass. A trophy given every week until January 1st. Write for further information regarding our inexpensive summer rates which will be in effect until January 1st.

FORRESTWOOD

SPORTSMAN'S LODGE

Welaka, Florida

E. Joe Schmidt, Mgr.

Phone Pomona Park 2431

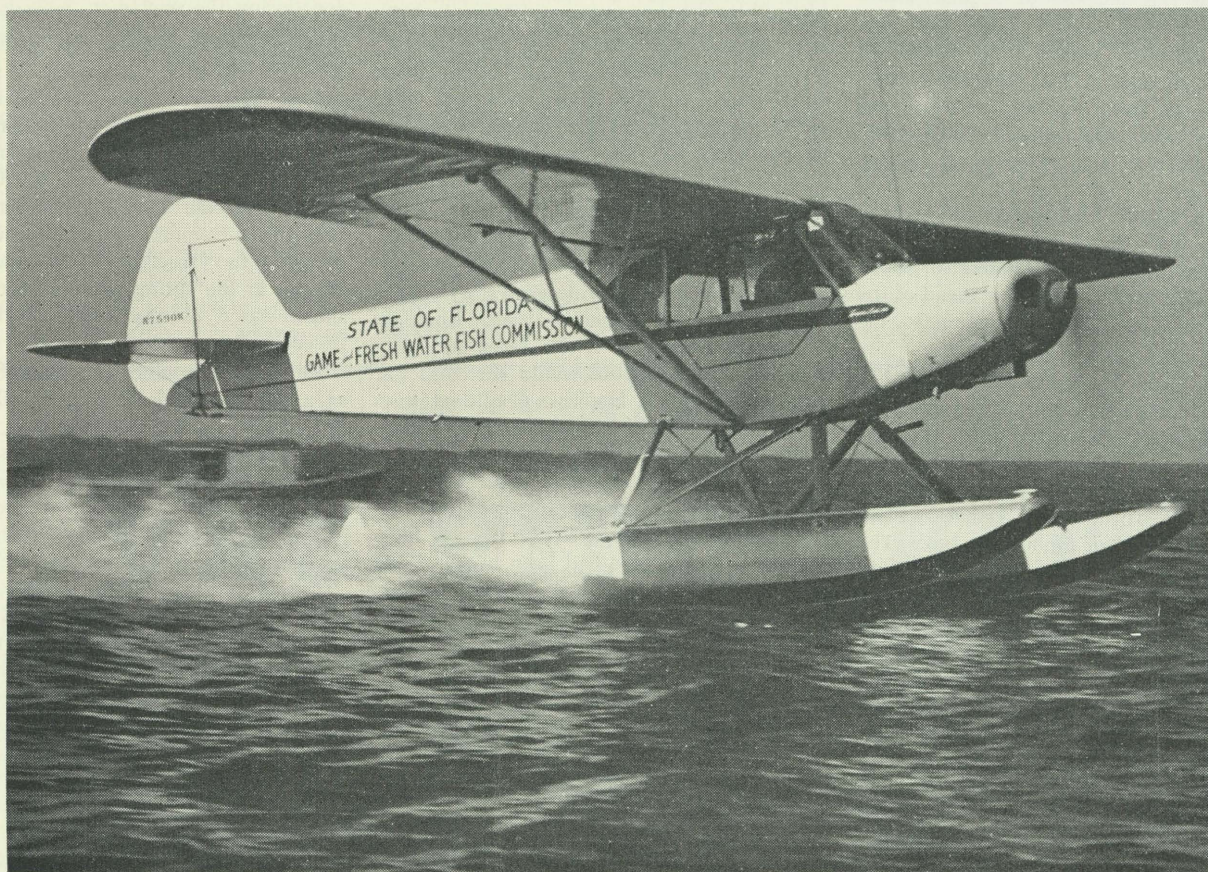
HUNT AND FISH BY AIR

IN YOUR OWN

PIPER CUB PLANE

Gets you there and back in a hurry. . . Takes you wherever the fishing and hunting is best.

— The most secluded territories can be reached by air —



Used by the Florida State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission in air patrolling.

PIPER CUB PLANES

Wallace Aircraft Co.

SARASOTA, FLORIDA

BLACK BEAR

(Continued from Page 7)

bear-dog is that he be rugged, since the bear is now found principally in very rough country where his path may run through swamps and thickets which are almost impenetrable. Any of several breeds of hounds can be trained to hunt bear, and almost any dog with courage and stamina will suffice as a fighting dog. Those with either airedale or pit-bull blood seem to be particularly favored.

After a difficult race over the roughest terrain, sometimes lasting for several hours, the bear comes to bay, generally in a thicket. This is where the fighting dogs come in, whether they are dogs especially trained for this purpose or regular utility hounds. It is their duty to harass the bear until the hunters arrive. They must be aggressive enough to keep the bear from freely turning his back on them to run, but at the same time must be sufficiently cautious and nimble to avoid being caught. One slip into the clutches of a bear may result in death or disabling injury to even the largest and strongest of dogs.

Bears may be killed by hunters so placed as to intercept the bear running ahead of the dogs, as well as by hunters going to the dogs after the bear has come to bay.

FEMALE bears do not breed until they are at least two years of age and may bear young only in alternate years. The one to four young are born usually in January or February, after a gestation period of around 215 days. Young bears are quite helpless and weigh only about half a pound at birth. The young remain with their mother throughout the summer and fall, and possibly through the following winter. They develop rather slowly and may not attain their full size—occasionally more than 500 pounds in weight in Florida—until four or five years of age.

Bears are easily tamed and make interesting pets when captured young. If properly handled they remain quite tame after reaching maturity. Because of their tractable nature and popularity with adults as well as children, they have long been star performers in carnivals and medicine shows. The dancing bear and his master were familiar sights in some parts of Europe and America a few years ago. The size and power of the mature bear, of course, render him dangerous in case something happens to upset his usual rather tranquil disposition.

The bear is omnivorous in its feeding habits. In Florida it feeds principally on roots, tender vegetation, berries, acorns, cabbage palm buds, insects, along with fish, eggs of birds and turtles, crayfish, and other small animal life. To this usual diet is added

an occasional hog or other large animal. There are records of bears killing grown cattle in Florida, and in the western states, but such activities are usually confined to a few specific individuals that have acquired a taste for beef.

One particular phase of the bears' food habits which is frequently disastrous for them is their taste for honey. Bears commonly raid beehives set out in the territory they frequent, and have been known to destroy as many as fifteen hives in one night. The destruction of beehives probably represents the most serious damage caused by bears in Florida. It is hoped that all bee-keepers will eventually take precautions to protect their hives from bears, rather than, as is now the rule, demanding that such damaging bears be killed.

In this line, black bears, often characterized as being happy-go-lucky comedians, are capable of some amusing performances in their search for sweets such as honey. Various means, including surrounding hives with lighted lanterns, boards studded with spikes, electrically-charged fences, or elevating the hives, have been used on occasion to protect them from bears. None of these devices have proved effective against some especially persistent bears that seem to have a penchant for making a man look silly.

In this connection, an amusing story comes to mind: One bee-keeper, constantly troubled by having bears tear up his hives at night, finally decided that he would surround his hives with lighted lanterns. Confident that he had solved his problem, he went peacefully to bed. When he returned in the morning, he was shocked to find that one hive and a lantern had disappeared. After a short search, he discovered the missing hive in a thicket. The hive had been broken into, the honey eaten, and setting beside it was the missing lantern—still burning brightly!

The bear has one other eating habit which occasionally gets him into trouble: His taste for pork. As a general rule, this taste is limited to wild or semi-wild hogs

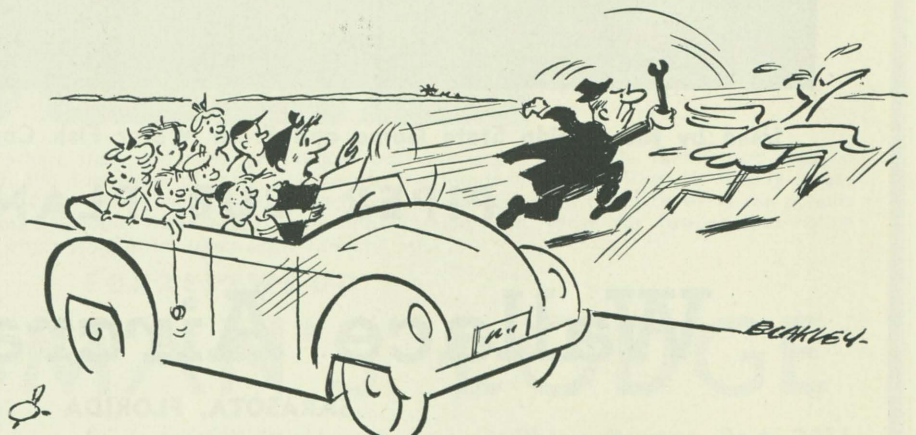
living in backwoods areas. The destruction of such hogs is welcomed by many cattlemen and foresters because of the damage they do to pastures and young pine trees. Throughout Florida, hogs are responsible for the destruction of a great deal of mast and other natural foods which normally would be used by deer and turkey, or by the bears themselves. Taking all things into consideration, it seems that the destruction of razorback hogs by bears is a good rather than a bad activity.

Bears customarily hole up during the winter, even to some extent in Florida. During their winter sleep they subsist on the fat that is normally accumulated in the fall. Bears do not truly hibernate, since their body temperatures do not decrease greatly, nor is respiration greatly retarded during their winter sleep. Even in the north, they may occasionally leave their den during the winter.

MANAGEMENT of the bear in Florida for the present will consist of protection against illegal hunting and restocking where practicable. In the latter connection, through a cooperative arrangement between the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U. S. Air Force, and the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, 12 bears were trapped from the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge in the spring and summer of 1949, and released on the Eglin Field Military Reservation.

In the final analysis, survival of the bear as a game animal in Florida will depend principally upon the efforts and wishes of the average Florida citizen and sportsman. We should stop condemning the bear on sight, and work together to protect him except in the comparatively rare cases of his seriously damaging property or livestock.

Except for the Florida panther, the bear is the largest, most powerful and most impressive wild animal found in this state. It deserves the fullest protection as an interesting and spectacular species of Florida wildlife.



"Hold it Henry! It says here they're herons, not storks."

Porter Driving Home; Eustis Bear Jaywalks; Porter Has Bearskin

EUSTIS—It might be titled "The Case of the Jaywalking Bear", but in any event Mayor Louis C. Vogt, Bob Squier, Frank Porter and Chief of Police Jimmie Dickerson received the fright of their lives one dark night last week as their car droned steadily homeward after the four had attended a meeting in St. Augustine. Frank Porter, local state vehicle license inspector, swears that he didn't see the "jaywalker" until it was too late and his testimony was corroborated by his three companions. "First thing we knew there was a dark shape looming up in front of us on the road," said Bob Squier. "Yeh, it held up its paws and we saw it was a big black bear, just as we hit it," said Chief Dickerson.

Porter's light car passed over the bear and the men turned the car around to shine the headlights on the dark form now lying in the middle of the white concrete. "Not a pistol in the crowd," Frank Porter explained later in telling how they very carefully got out of the car and approached the bear which they hoped was in the inactive stage. After a cursory examination of the big beast, which they figured weighed

Lake Wales Sportsmen Elect Gray President

LAKE WALES—Sam Gray was recently elected president of the newly organized Lake Wales Sportsmen's Club. Other officers elected included Charles Simmons, vice president, and Bruce Pugh, secretary and treasurer.

Members of the board of directors, elected for two-year terms, include Fred Oliver, E. H. Phillips and M. C. Dopler. Owen Brice and A. M. Yeager were elected to fulfill the one-year terms.

Those appointed to the membership committee included Charles Simmons, chairman, C. H. Davis, A. M. Yeager and Byron Bozeman.

over 300 pounds, the men hoisted the dead animal into the trunk of Porter's car.

Arriving in Eustis at the Body and Welding lot on Bay Street, Squier backed his big auto wrecker out and trussing the bear's hind legs to the crane, hoisted the black monster in the air.

Asked what he was going to do with the bear, Frank Porter said he guessed he would skin it. "We had to bring it home, though. Evidence, you know. Who would have believed a story like this without the corpus delicti?"

Monroe Co. Audubon Society Hears Watson Discuss "Toy" Deer

KEY WEST—At its first meeting for the 1950-1951 season held Thursday night at the Key West Woman's Club building, the Monroe County Audubon Society heard Jack Watson, representative of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, discuss Key Deer and other wild life of the Florida Keys.

Watson complimented the Society for its work in the interest of conserving wild life in this area. He stated the herd of Key Deer is growing smaller and steps must be taken to save it. Some of the deer have wandered onto the Overseas Highway and have been accidentally killed by motorists. The skin and skeleton of one of these animals were sent to the National Museum of the Smithsonian Institution, in Washington, D. C., for scientific research purposes.

The Key Deer is the only deer of its kind, and the smallest in America. Protection is essential to prevent its total extinction. The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Florida Fresh Water Fish and Game Commission are cooperating in an effort to save the remaining herd.

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Outdoorsmen May See 'Flying Oranges' While Quail Hunting

Reports of "Flying Oranges" are expected to fill the air shortly as Florida's hunters and nature-lovers first encounter members of a flock of 157 brightly-colored mourning doves recently released by biologists of the State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, according to Frank Winston, dove biologist.

Trapped, banded and then colored a bright orange with harmless dyes by Winston and Wildlife Officer L. O. Montgomery, the doves were released as a part of a program which has resulted in the banding of over 3,000 birds within the past 15 months. Purpose of the program is to learn migratory habits of doves so that the hunting season may be properly regulated so as to conserve stocks and fairly distribute hunting of the game birds.

The "Flying Oranges" are part of a mysterious flight of doves which appear in a certain section of the State every year, usually around October 1, and then disappear after two or three weeks. State biologists hope that all persons encountering the orange doves, or other banded doves, will send the leg bands to the proper authorities:

A SNAKE TERROR

"Clip," a spunky fox terrier owned by Mr. and Mrs. Herschel Baldwin, of Riviera Beach, should be known as a "snake terrier," or perhaps as a "snake terror."

According to Mr. Baldwin, the dog was responsible for the extermination of a diamond-back rattlesnake measuring three and a half feet long. "Clip" was reported to have sensed the snake near the house and aroused his owner, who immediately killed the snake.

No snakes in the grass for "Clip."

U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D. C. The leg-band number will then be recorded as part of the cooperative dove-banding program which is being undertaken in all of the Southeastern states, as well as many other states, and even the Virgin Islands, Winston stated.

Before dyeing the 157 doves, State biologists carefully studied reactions of sample birds to be sure that there would be no ill effects from the dye, and also to make certain that the strange coloration would not interfere with the birds' feeding, breeding or living habits, Winston said.

Fishing Dog Takes Catch Home for His Master to Clean

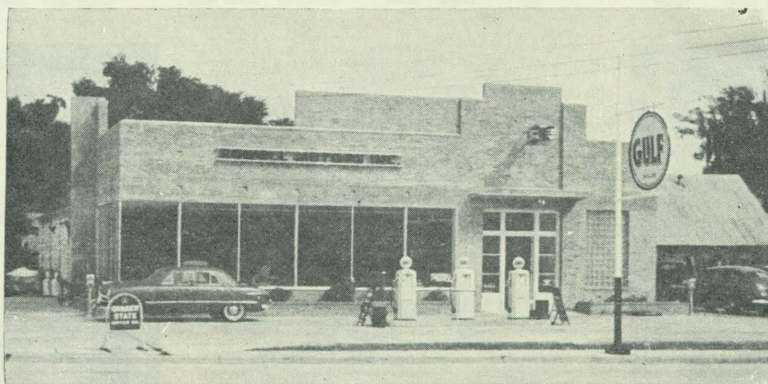
COCOA—Almost any hunter can tell interesting tales about smart hunting dogs, but in Laddie, a nine-year old collie, Mr. and Mrs. W. O. Yount of Cocoa Beach have what is probably the only fishing dog in the state of Florida.

Like any other fisherman, Laddie loves the sport, and also like his human counterpart, he brings the catch home for the little woman to scale and clean. It is not unusual for the Younts to find several fish beside the door that Laddie has placed there, and when his luck is really good, it keeps them busy putting toadfish and mullet back in the river or burying them. His largest catch, a mullet, was estimated by Mr. Yount to be nearly 18 inches long.

Laddie is a self-taught fisherman. He watches the water from a small dock and when an unwary fish ventures close, he jumps down and chases it into shallow water where he pins it down with his feet and catches it in his mouth. He got the idea one day when Mr. Yount was spearing fish. One was only slightly wounded by Mr. Yount's grain and Laddie helped catch it in the shallows. Since then he has been an ardent—and successful—fish-dog.

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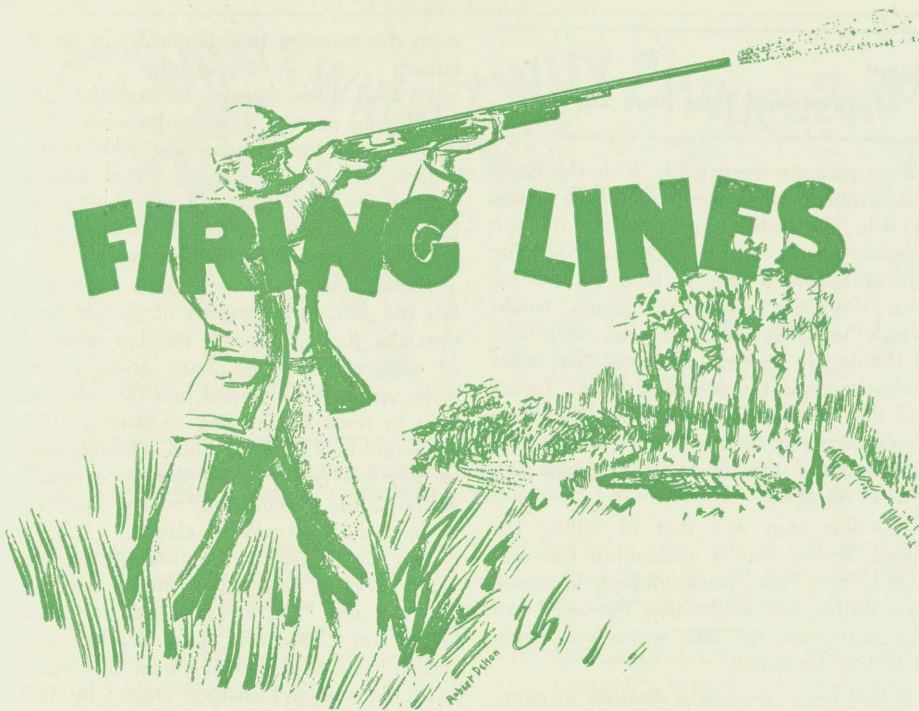


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NOW IS SIGHTING-IN TIME

By ROBERT IRWIN

THAT panicky, semi-paralyzed feeling described as "buck ague" saves the lives of many buck deer each season. But, according to C. F. McCubbin of Remington Arms Company, Inc., there is another and even more important reason for the poor marksmanship of a considerable percentage of the gunners who take to the woods in search of venison. This is their failure to sight in their rifles properly.

Many hunters lay their rifles aside at the end of the deer season and pay little attention to them until the next Opening Day. In the meantime, a lot of things could have happened to get the sights out of kilter and keep the bullet from going where the shooter thinks he's aiming. So the time to check those rifle shots is right now. Don't wait until you get a chance at a big rack-headed buck and then have your bullet whiz harmlessly over his back.

"Rifle sights are not easily jarred out of alignment," says McCubbin, "but it can happen in transportation or otherwise without being too obvious. And when it does happen a whole hunting trip can be spoiled. So, whether your rifle is new or old, be sure to sight it in to suit your eyes or manner of holding before you leave on that hunting trip this season. And then be very, very careful in transporting it to the hunting grounds.

"The sights of all rifles are carefully adjusted before they leave the factory. If your eyes are exactly normal and you hold it in

the proper manner, your rifle should shoot true. However, there is a considerable variation in the eyes of hunters and all shooters do not all 'hold' in just the same manner. Consequently, one man may get bulls-eyes consistently while another, using the same rifle, may find his bullets going wide of their mark. The sights may then be adjusted to make the necessary shooting corrections.

"In testing a rifle for accuracy, the shooting should be done from the prone position using a sandbag rest. This rest can be made by simply putting enough sand in an ordinary feed bag so that it will be solid against your wrist and the back of your hand which holds the fore-end when you are in the prone position. Never rest the rifle barrel across the sandbag, log or any solid object.

"Aim carefully, take a breath, release a bit of it, hold it, and squeeze the trigger. The correct way to *squeeze* the trigger is to increase the pressure on the trigger so smoothly and steadily that you do not know exactly when the rifle is going to fire. Shoot three to five shots for a group. If the shots are not in the bulls-eye, then move your rear sight in the direction the group would be moved to place it in the center of the target.

"If the rear sight is fixed, adjustment for sidewise errors may be made by moving the front sight. If the rifle is shooting to the right, move the front sight to the right or

the rear sight to the left. Remember this rule: Always move the rear sight in the direction in which you desire the rifle to shoot. Move the front sight in the opposite direction. The front or rear sight can be moved in its notch by placing a short rod of brass or copper against it and tapping the rod with a hammer, while the barrel itself is supported against a hard block of wood. Set your rifle sights to hit where you aim at the average distance of most shots at deer or other game in your hunting territory. Carefully check the *exact* position of your sights as soon as you have 'sighted in' so that they may be returned to proper adjustment if accidentally jarred out of alignment. Test your rifle carefully, make the necessary sight adjustments by following this rule, and your chances of bagging a buck will be greatly enhanced.

"Sighting-In Day would be a worthy project for every sportsmen's club whose members hunt deer. There are always two or three experienced gunners in every club who are qualified to help a novice make his rifle shoot properly to his own mannerisms. And this sort of assistance is always greatly appreciated for many gunners are at a loss to know just what to do. Organize a Sighting-In Day program at your club. You will be surprised at the number who will turn out for aid."

THE difference between a hit and a miss in wing-shooting often lies in that very slight distance between the shooter's cheek and the stock of his gun.

There should be no distance at all between the cheek and the stock. The expert wing-shot makes sure that the gun stock is against his cheek before he pulls the trigger. This, with practice, becomes an instinctive movement that is one of the prime essentials in good shooting. Raising the stock to the cheek allows the shooter to quickly gain a true 'sight-picture' and helps him to refrain from making the all-too-common error of raising his head just before firing.

Raising the head causes the gunner to shoot high, the most common fault among shotgun shooters. "Keep your head down" is one of the cardinal rules in good shooting and its strict observance must be practiced if the charge of shot is to strike the object at which the shooter thinks he is pointing.

Most gunners realize immediately upon touching off the trigger whether or not the gun was properly pointed. In trap shooting a few sketchy breaks will warn the shooter that he is not holding right and that he is "scratchin' 'em down" with the edge of his pattern. The fellow who shoots with both eyes open (and this is the proper method) is more apt to raise his head a bit and shoot high than the chap who closes one eye for the latter is more inclined to "sight" his shotgun rather than "point" it.

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"J-D"

(Continued from Page 26)

Arrangements were made with the State Commission to clear the lake of both weeds and fish. The State Commission was to have complete charge of the work involved. The City of Lakeland was to bear all the expense, but the State Commission would furnish the equipment to be used along with all the highly trained personnel that were necessary to do the technical work. To assure the correctness of the task, the State Commission put the work under the direct supervision of the chief fisheries biologist, John F. Dequine.

The first step was that of killing the *Elodea*. By the use of a chemical harmless to fish, this was accomplished in seven days. Within two weeks after the weed had been destroyed, the lake water was ready for further treatment.

It had been previously decided to eliminate the fish by netting, but it was realized that it would be impossible to completely clear the lake by this method. To gain full knowledge of exactly what was wrong with the lake, every fish must be taken. With this in mind, the Commission decided to use another type of poison. Actually, the highly secret chemical used in the "poisoning" is not a poison. Instead, it forms a coat around the gills of the fish and smothers them. Not

even the name of the chemical can be obtained.

It took three weeks to complete the smothering process. The results were amazing. Out of the 25-acre lake well over a million bream were taken. The average weight of these two and three year old bream was a mere two or three ounces, instead of the usual one or two pounds.

During the three-week period taken to kill the fish, large crowds of people lined the lake shore to watch the last struggles of some of the huge bass. Some of the more venturesome waded into the lake, unable to resist the longing to hold a 10 or 15 pound bass in their hands. Though many of the fish were eaten, despite warnings of the Game Commission, no one appeared to have suffered any ill effects.

Ten days after the smothering, the lake was restocked with 1,000 bream and 100 bass per acre. This meant a total of 25,000 bream and 2,500 bass. These two fish were chosen because they complement each other.

In the annual Fishathon staged by BFI, each city (and BFI) gives prizes for the first fish caught, the biggest fish, the limit, and so on. In 1949, the prize fish varied from 19¼ pounds to 1 ounce. The results of the 1950 contest are still not available. However, bass weighing up to 4 pounds have already been taken from Lake Wire.

Most of the bass used in the restocking on July 8, 1949, were from four to eight inches in length. By the time of Lakeland's first Fishathon, a five pounder, eighteen inches in length—or longer, will not be uncommon.

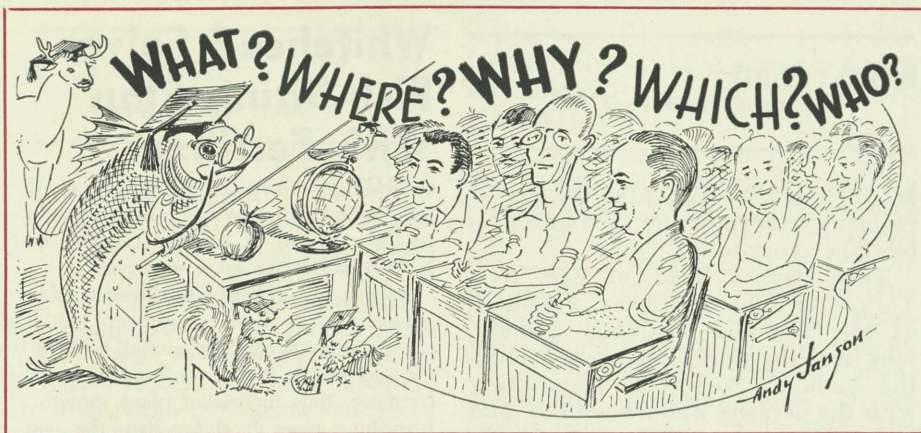
To further aid in the permanent success of the plan, a commercial fertilizer is put in the lake. The fertilizer feeds the plankton, which in turn is the basic food of the marine life that the fish feed on.

The Florida State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission has, and will, gain valuable knowledge as to the dangers and types of overstocking from their experiments, but Lakeland gained something that will benefit this and a future generation.

Little Johnny has his own lake now. Furthermore, he has a better chance of catching fish than Dad because, theoretically at least, a perfectly balanced lake is the best fishing lake. And he has a perfectly balanced lake. It is constantly fed under scientific guidance so that he may fish under ideal conditions in the heart of his own city. His mother doesn't have to worry—not like she used to anyway.

Lakeland's Lake Wire will always serve as a memorial to those public-spirited citizens who are willing to go out of their way, and give much time and effort, to combatting juvenile delinquency. Lakeland, you see, is taking care of her own—her own children who will someday be the adult citizens of Lakeland.





If you have questions concerning hunting, fishing, camping, guns, or ammunition, address them to PROFESSOR SMARTY, FLORIDA WILDLIFE, TALLAHASSEE. He'll do the rest.

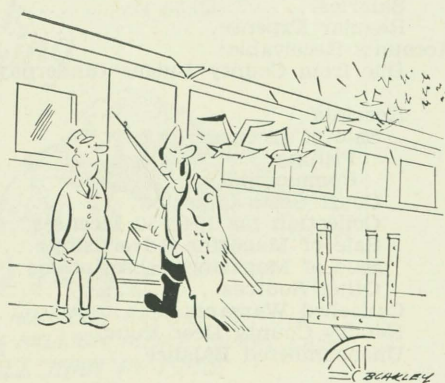
Q. Would like your opinion on poor black-bass fishing in Lake Okeechobee. While it's almost impossible to take any bass, the limit of bluegills can be taken at any time. Old-timers here say that bluegills eat bass spawn, but I hesitate to believe this. I also believe that poor black-bass fishing is due to low water. What's your answer, Prof?—C. W. P., Miami.

A. As usual, Mother Nature operates on a balance system: Although bluegills will eat the spawn of bass, and any other fish, especially during the heaviest time of spawning activities, the black bass, in turn, eat bluegills as a main source of food. So the little bass spawn eaten by bluegills is well repaid in the number of bluegills eaten by black bass. In regard to Lake Okeechobee, the trouble seems to stem from the fact that sport-fishing in that area has increased tremendously in the past four years. In 1946, for instance, 94 rental fishing boats were available from 19 camps on the lake, and 4,329 fishing licenses were sold in the five counties surrounding the lake. In 1950, 245 rental boats were available from 25 fishing camps on the lake, and 11,580 licenses were sold. If 4,329 fishermen caught 12 pounds of bass a day in 1946, and 11,580 fishermen caught six pounds of bass a day in 1950, each fisherman would say that fishing was rotten in 1950, because he had actually taken only half of what he did in 1946. Actually, however, the total 1950 catch would have increased 34 percent over the 1946 catch, but more fishermen would have had their lines in the pot. Statistics show that not more than 25 percent of the adult bass in the ordinary lake are taken by sport fishing. If the number of fishermen has doubled or tripled in the last four years, it means that each fisherman, on the average is

going to take only a half or a third as much as he did four years ago as his share of the 25 percent.

Q. Will you be so kind as to tell me how to distinguish between the male and female rattlesnake?—F. R., Dade City.

A. According to J. D. Landt, Director of Ross Allen's Reptile Institute: "It is a general conception that the female has a more or less heart-shaped pattern, while the male has the diamond pattern. This is true to a certain extent. There are so many specimens, however, that take exception to this rule that pattern alone cannot be relied upon to distinguish between the sexes. The only infallible method of telling what sex a snake is is to probe the genital organs. Experienced persons, however, can distinguish the sex by the size of the tail aft of the vent. The male specimen has the larger tail, more gradual taper, while the female has a very sharply defined taper beginning immediately after the vent. On some species of snakes, the difference is not too noticeable from above, but is more discernible from the side view. Rattlesnakes, however, can be distinguished one from the other by either top or side views when one knows what to look for."



"Beat it! Go home!"

Q. At our house, we get quite a thrill out of watching and feeding bluejays and cardinals in our yard. Will you please tell me where these birds make their nests?—MRS. R. T. W., Miami.

A. Bluejays nest high in the air and are partial to pine and oak trees, although they frequently nest in citrus groves in Central Florida. Cardinals are partial to thick bushes and usually build their nests within eight feet of the ground.

Q. Do you have any idea of how many species of wildlife are disappearing in this country?—D. K., Tampa.

A. Authorities estimate that between 50 and 60 species of wild creatures are presently on the verge of extinction in this country. In Florida, species which are nearly extinct are the Florida Keys miniature deer, ivory-billed woodpecker, crocodile and panther, not to mention the many other species which are in dangerously low supply, such as alligator and black bear.

Q. Can you advise me where I can find live Daphnia in waters nearest to Melrose or Keystone Heights, Fla., to feed fish that I am breeding?—B. R., Keystone Heights.

A. Daphne are present in all of our fresh-water ponds in Florida. They are very tiny, shrimp-like animals, quite transparent, and living in grassy areas of the average small pond. Can usually be caught with a fine sieve or a small dip-net made of curtain material. You almost need a magnifying glass, however, to see and identify them. In the State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission's hatcheries, no attempt is made to raise daphne and feed them to the fish, as such. Instead, the waters are fertilized to increase the growth of plankton, which includes the daphne under natural conditions.

Q. Is it legal to use snatch-hooks to catch mullet?—L. G. B., Gainesville.

A. Illegal to use snatch-hooks in fresh waters of Florida. No law prohibiting use of snatch-hooks in salt water.

Q. Is there an easy way to shine spoons and spinners used in fishing?—P. O'D., Jacksonville.

A. Save water from boiled potatoes. When it cools, soak metal spoons and spinners in it overnight. Then dry them, rub briskly with a soft, damp cloth, and then a dry cloth. If metal finish isn't too badly battered or worn, this will restore the shiny finish. To keep finish shiny, paint with colorless nail-polish or aeroplane dope.

(Continued on Page 43)

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TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

RAREST BIRD

(Continued from Page 17)

M. L. Kelso, of Blountstown, to be resident warden of the area and protect the ivory-bills.

Then Bayard Read, of Rye, New York, and John H. Baker, president of the National Audubon Society, took over the work. Read represented the Audubon Society in negotiating with the persons who owned the land on which the ivory-billed woodpeckers lived. Through his efforts, and those of Baker, the St. Joe Paper Company and the Neal Lumber and Manufacturing Company, agreed to set aside the land they owned to make a sanctuary for the bird.

Then the Florida State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission entered the picture, in October of 1950, officially designating the 1-300-acre area as a bird sanctuary for America's rarest bird. The sanctuary actually includes all of the area in North America in which the ivory-billed woodpeckers are definitely known to exist.

Meanwhile, two more birds were found, making a total of four, all that remain out of the thousands and thousands that once lived in the swamp-forests as far north as Illinois and as far west as Texas.

So Whitney H. Eastman was the man who painstakingly followed the dream of his life to its successful conclusion, and gave the ivory-billed woodpeckers back to North America.

Whitehead Solves Fish-Biting Plan With Fertilizer

CHIPLEY—Ivan T. Whitehead of Caryville believes that he has found the solution to the problem of keeping the fish biting in Florida's larger lakes and ponds.

Proper and effective fertilization of large lakes has long been a problem. Although conservationists can take a small body of water and enrich it with ordinary commercial fertilizer, thus increasing plant growth and furnishing more food for fish, the cost of treating larger waters of even a few hundred acres is generally prohibitive.

No millionaire, Whitehead seems confident that he will be able to cheaply maintain good fishing in nearby 2,000-acre Pate Pond. His experiments, which are being followed with interest by biologists of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, may well be the forerunner of such work throughout Florida.

Instead of attempting to fertilize all of Pate Pond, at a probable cost of \$5,000 a year, Whitehead is converting a stretch of swampland on his lake into what he calls a "natural fish hatchery."

Believing that unmolested fish will maintain their spawning beds in the same area year after year, he plans to fertilize only a shallow canal running through the swampland for about a quarter of a mile. That way, he believes, he can economically "fatten out" plenty of fish for the lake, since, when the spawning season is over, the fish will fan out from the canal over the entire stretch of water.

If the plan works, Whitehead believes that there will never be any danger of Florida's 30,000 lakes becoming "worn out."

FISCAL REPORT GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION SEPTEMBER 30, 1950

	Debit	Credit
Cash with State Treasurer.....	\$260,537.72	
Uncollected Check.....	6.25	
Disbursements:		
Salaries.....	158,743.39	
Regular Expense.....	115,659.73	
Accounts Receivable:		
Due from County Judges (underpayments).....	17.75	
Receipts:		
Sale of Licenses:		
Fishing.....		\$250,742.75
Commercial.....		21,852.90
Court Costs Collected.....		2,501.88
Collection for 1949-50 Licenses.....		3,451.75
Sale of Magazine Advertising.....		2,324.50
Sale of Magazine Subscriptions.....		1,714.75
Other Sources.....		2,413.64
Cancelled Warrants.....		152.74
Hendry County Deer Fund.....		4,575.00
Unencumbered Balance.....		245,234.93
	\$534,964.84	\$534,964.84

THE CANEBRAKE

(Continued from Page 19)

than doubles in length by the end of its first year, and more than triples its length by the end of the second year. A length of five feet may be reached by the end of the third year—truly rapid growth! Specimens much over 5½ feet in length are rare in Florida; 6-footers and even 7-footers have been found in Georgia and South Carolina. The cane-brake rattler must therefore rank as one of the largest rattlesnakes in existence, being nearly as large as the diamond-back. The cane-brake rattler, however, is more slender in build than the average diamond-back.

The cane-brake rattler sheds the epidermis about once every 45 days, and uncovers a new segment of the rattle with each shed. As the rattle becomes longer, it usually breaks, sometimes leaving behind no more than one or two rattle segments. It is obvious, then, that the age of a rattlesnake cannot be told by "counting the

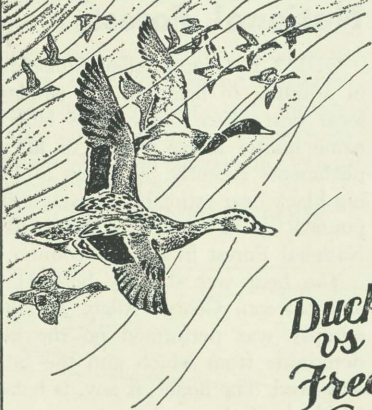
rattles"—as the authors have previously pointed out in connection with the diamond-back rattlesnake (FLORIDA WILDLIFE; July, 1950).

As cold weather approaches, cane-brake rattlers congregate in some safe retreat, called a "den". This den may be a cave or fissure in a limestone formation, a deserted fox burrow, or the tunnels left by the decay of pine roots in the ground. Dens are sometimes found beneath the debris of an old saw-mill site, or under an abandoned and collapsing house in the rubble about the chimney base. The snakes apparently migrate to the dens from considerable distances, and as many as 81 rattlers have been found in a single den!

The venom of the cane-brake rattler is more potent than that of the northern timber rattler, but less potent than that of the Florida diamond-back. The bite of the cane-brake rattler is always a serious matter, however; there have been some fatalities. In areas where cane-brake rattlers are common, many hunting dogs are bitten. Cows and calves are also sometimes killed by this dangerous reptile.

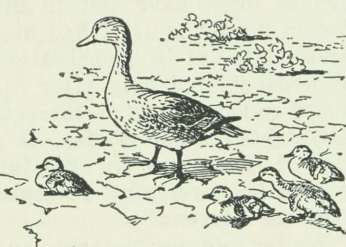
CONSERVATION IN ACTION

FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT
OF THE INTERIOR



**Ducks
vs
Freak
Spring**

THE LATE SPRING AND UNUSUAL MIGRATION HAVE DELAYED THE NESTING OF DUCKS AND GEESE.
LATE IN MAY, FLOCKS OF SOME SPECIES WERE STILL SOUTH OF THE CANADIAN BORDER.



OBSERVERS ARE HOPEFUL THAT POTHoles WILL NOT DRY OUT BEFORE THE BROODS ARE IN FLIGHT



HUNTERS REPORT TAKING 1½ MILLION MORE BIRDS LAST FALL THAN IN 1948

Baldwins

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Furnished Housekeeping Cottages with all
modern conveniences.
Bait at all times and a friendly host and
hostess.

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Modern Housekeeping Cottages right on the lake, with Electric Refrigerators, Gas Stoves, and Hotel Beds.

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Pickett's Fish Camp

"On Beautiful Oklawaha River"

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BOATS • MOTORS**
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BLACK BASS FISHING

ON FAMOUS OLD ST. JOHN'S
(Seven Miles West of Cocoa)

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Panasoffkee's Finest

MODERN CABINS - WONDERFUL FISHING
In Beautiful Magnolia Shores

Write for Reservations, or Call
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SID LEE & SON
Panasoffkee, Fla.

DOC LaFEVER'S FISHING LODGE

The Best in Fishing
at

WELAKA, FLORIDA
(Putnam County)

C. D. ANDERSON—Owner
Phone—POMONA PARK 2453

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INVERNESS HARDWARE COMPANY
SPORTING GOODS

COURTHOUSE SQUARE
INVERNESS, FLORIDA
Citrus County • The Sportsman's Paradise

Subscribe to **FLORIDA WILDLIFE**
Magazine—\$1.00 a year.

BACHELOR'S PARADISE

(Continued from Page 10)

for the day when there no longer is a place left to hunt on, he cautions.

He suggests that groups of nimrods, 10, 25, 50, or 100, pool their funds, lease acreages of pine woods and swamp land, fence, stock and post it and use it for exclusive hunting. The same plan, says Walter, could be used by sportsman clubs and other similar groups.

During the return trip to Bachelor's Paradise, I learned to my utter amazement that I was talking with a man who had already taken steps that would result in his life-long interest in conservation being effective long after his death.

"I have enough interest in seeing that our native wildlife survives and improves that I have actually arranged to have the income from my trust fund used in stocking fish and game after I am dead," he told me quietly.

Later I read his will—and there it was! It directs that after the death of his father, mother, and brother, the income from his trust fund will be used by that state or federal agency having authority to stock the lakes of Orange and Osceola counties with black bass, and the forests of the same counties with quail and wild turkey.

SOMEHOW or other I felt like old Diogenes must have felt in his search for an honest man! I had met a man whose interest in conservation would be demonstrated long after his life span had ended. It was an interest that likely started when Walter, as a seven-year-old youngster in Kissimmee, acquired his first gun, a single-shot .22 caliber Stevens!

"Yes," Walter told me, "hunting and fishing have always been my evils—the evils that my father says a successful businessman shouldn't have."

Back at Bachelor's Paradise, Walter entertained me for several hours with color movies of his quail hunting experiences. He had thousands of feet of film that covered five years of hunting and represented an investment of well over \$5,000.

"What do you honestly think of my

FOR SALE

An ideal marketing space for those having outdoor sports equipment, material and services for sale. Display advertisements in **FLORIDA WILDLIFE** are effective selling aids. Write: Advertising Dept., Florida Wildlife, Tallahassee, Fla., for advertising rates, spaces and other information.

pictures?" Phillips asked after the last foot of the films had been run through the movie projector.

"I am convinced that you likely have the most amazing quail hunting film ever taken in the United States," I told him honestly.

THEN came an amazing offer from an equally amazing man!

"If you think sportsmen in Florida and in other states would be interested in seeing the pictures, then I am willing to present them, without cost, to the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission," he said quietly.

His only stipulation in this amazing offer was that the Game Commission have the film edited down to 800 feet and produce it with sound and narration added.

As a result of Phillips' thoughtfulness, Florida sportsmen, within a few months, will be able to view the amazing hunting picture in all sections of the state since the commission's division of Information and Education already is having the film readied for production.

Thus ended my first visit at Bachelor's Paradise.

Driving down the highway, I mumbled to myself.

"Walter Phillips, a fine sportsman—a conscientious conservationist—a swell guy!"

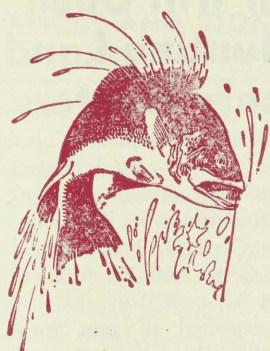
Father and Sons Bag Big Bear in National Forest

QUINCY—George Allen McDermid, Sr., in addition to being in the employ of the local post office, added the laurel of big game hunter to his wreath of life's accomplishments recently by virtue of bagging a big black bear estimated to weigh about 325 pounds on a hunt in the Apalachicola National Forest in Liberty county.

The bear was shot by both McDermid and his son, George Allen, Jr., though no autopsy was performed on the carcass to determine from which gun the fatal bullet was fired. The honor, if any, is being shared jointly by father and son.

Ben Bostick, who accompanied the two McDermids on the party along with James Cox, and Dr. G. E. Boring from Gadsden, and 12 Liberty county huntsmen, stated that it took all the brawn that four men had to load the prize aboard a truck for transport to Quincy.

Bostick said that he believed that the baggers of "Ole Bruin" were going to make a rug from the hide, probably as a pride and joy to gaze upon in later years to cause chests to surge forth and pop off many a vest button, he added.



Books



OFFICIAL HUNTING BOOK—Edited by Charles R. Jacobs. 160 pages. Profusely illustrated with half-tones, line drawings, and maps. Regular edition, \$1.50. Deluxe cloth-bound edition, \$2.50. Crown Publishers, 419 Fourth Avenue, New York City, 16.

Sub-titled "How, When and Where to Hunt in North America," this volume seems to live up to its name. Encyclopedic in quality, and completely and finely illustrated, it covers all types of hunting and all species of game and predatory animals and birds in the U. S. A., Alaska, Canada and Mexico. Also presents information on campcraft, woodlore, skinning, dressing and cooking game.

Carrying the writings of 14 authoritative outdoor authors, approximately half of it is devoted to rifle hunting, with the remainder devoted to shotgunning. Seasons for each type of game and area are charted, as well as game laws, trophy records, and game inventories.

This book is undoubtedly a repository for a more diversified range of hunting material than can be readily found elsewhere. It does not, however, carry any information on guns or ammunition, which material is found in the companion volume **OFFICIAL GUN BOOK**.

The **OFFICIAL HUNTING BOOK** is

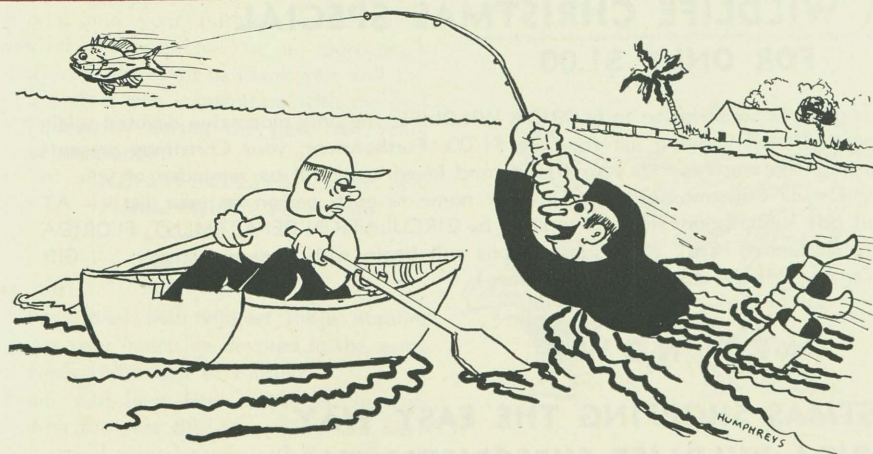
bound to be of great interest to any hunter, and is a welcome addition to every outdoor library.

ADVANCED BAIT CASTING—By Charles K. Fox. 204 plus xii pages. Sketch illustrations by Fred Everett. \$3.75. G. P. Putnam's Sons, 2 West 45th St., New York City.

Covering the evolution, practice and theory of bait-casting, this volume is written in a readable, non-technical style. Intended to carry the average plug caster one step higher in the sport, it principally advocates the use of lighter, balanced tackle—that is: light rod, lines and reel used in conjunction with the midget one-fourth-ounce lures.

Mr. Fox also goes deeply into the problems of hooking, playing and landing fish, principally black bass, as well as the normal resting locations and feeding grounds of the fish. He also has sections on night casting, field problems and fall fishing. He brings the book to its close with chapters on personal recollections, reflections and theories of conservation.

ADVANCED BAIT CASTING can be recommended as a worthwhile volume for confirmed bait casters who enjoy reading and theorizing about their favorite sport.



"Game little devil, isn't he?"

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BOATS

CABINS

TRAILS END CAMP

"On the Withlacoochee"

FLORAL CITY, FLORIDA

HUNTING

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BAIT - MOTORS - BOATS - GUIDES

"Follow the signs east of Hernando"

ON LAKE TSALA APOPKA

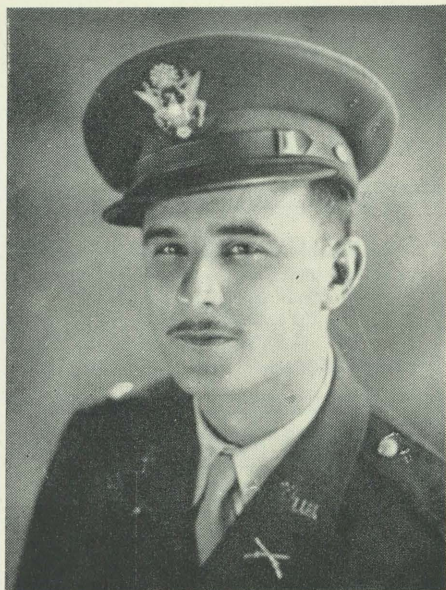
EUSTIS TRAILER PARK

EUSTIS, FLORIDA

ON BEAUTIFUL LAKE EUSTIS

☆

One block from business district and tourist center.



ARTHUR L. SNOW

U. S. Army Captain Arthur L. Snow, former Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission Wildlife Officer, was recently awarded the Bronze Star for extraordinary heroism on the Korean front at Taejon July 20, 1950. He also received the Purple Heart with one Oak Leaf Cluster.

Snow, who served with the Commission during 1947-48, was also awarded the Silver Star, three Bronze Stars, and the Purple

Heart with two Oak Leaf Clusters while serving in France during World War II.

The most recent decoration was awarded for Snow's heroic action when his company was attacked by a superior enemy force and subjected to heavy crossfire of small arms and mortar fire. Volunteering to contact the battalion command post, 1,000 yards behind, Snow exposed himself to enemy fire during the trip. Although the post was evacuated, and Snow was wounded, he returned to his company with information as to enemy dispositions which aided the company in its withdrawal to safety.

In World War II, he received decorations for rallying American troops, even though he was seriously wounded, and leading them into battle against enemy mortar fire.

Capt. Snow is the son of Ernest Snow, of Brooksville, and is the husband of Mrs. Marie Snow, also of Brooksville.

Although generally unpopular as a game or food animal in Florida, the opossum will make a delicious meal when properly prepared.

FOR SALE

An ideal marketing space for those having outdoor sports equipment, material and services for sale. Display advertisements in **FLORIDA WILDLIFE** are effective selling aids. Write: Advertising Dept., Florida Wildlife, Tallahassee, Fla., for advertising rates, spaces and other information.

New Plan Will Open Closed Hunting Land To Ordinary Hunters

The inauguration of a new plan to open thousands of acres of now-closed hunting lands to Floridians with ordinary hunting budgets has been undertaken in the Tampa area, according to Cecil M. Webb, chairman of the State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.

The program, expected to gain widespread popularity throughout the state, calls for a working agreement between industry and business houses in leasing thousands of acres of top-flight hunting territory and making it available solely to the average outdoorsman.

Under the plan, businessmen would co-operate in acquiring hunting lands now posted and, after stocking by the game agency, to open the territories under a free permit system. It was pointed out that the permits would be awarded to customers of the cooperating business houses. It is planned to have the system in full operation for the 1951-52 hunting season, Webb said.

Dixie Lily Mills, first of a number of Tampa organizations to join the movement, already has announced plans to acquire 10,000 acres for the new "Webb Plan" hunting program. Other organizations are preparing to follow suit, it was said.

A SIMPLE WAY TO DO

YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

There's no need to work and worry over a Christmas shopping list this year. There's no need to try bucking the Christmas crowds while shopping for a list of presents as long as your arm. There's no need to bother with wrapping presents, standing in line to mail them, or writing gift cards, if you . . .

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE FLORIDA WILDLIFE CHRISTMAS SPECIAL FOR ONLY \$1.00

FLORIDA WILDLIFE will mail your presents—a year's subscription to FLORIDA WILDLIFE, the only magazine devoted solely to the wonderful Florida outdoors—to each name on your mailing list for only \$1.00. Furthermore, your Christmas presents will be mailed 12 times during the coming year so that each month your friends and loved ones will be reminded of you. In addition, FLORIDA WILDLIFE will send a handsome Christmas gift card in your name to each person on your list — AT ABSOLUTELY NO EXTRA CHARGE. But, all gift subscriptions must be received by CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT, FLORIDA WILDLIFE, TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA, before December 15th. (Gift subscriptions will begin with January issue. . . . Gift cards will be in each person's hands by December 24, the day before Christmas.)

ACT NOW!

DO YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING THE EASY WAY... GIVE FLORIDA WILDLIFE SUBSCRIPTIONS!

STICKS AND STONES

(Continued from Page 3)

OCTOBER LAURELS

Dear Sir:

We are taking this occasion to compliment the office of the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, and especially so with reference to the current October, 1950 issue of FLORIDA WILDLIFE.

We have enjoyed all the previous issues of this magazine, but are especially appreciative of the present issue which features the editorial entitled "They are Thieves!" by Miller Joiner, Commissioner for the Second District, Jacksonville, and also such interesting articles as that of "The Disappearing Panther" by O. Earl Frye with Bill and Les Piper, and the article entitled "The Coral Snake" by Ross Allen and Wilfred T. Neil, together with the center page featuring "Reptiles Can Be Beautiful" by Charles H. Anderson.

More power to you!

H. S. NEWINS, Director
School of Forestry
College of Agriculture
University of Florida

Dear Sir:

I have just carefully examined the October issue of FLORIDA WILDLIFE magazine with a critical eye. Here in the Federation office we receive publications from all other State Game or Fish Commissions regularly. By comparison, your magazine is by far the finest in the entire United States.

Personally, I find it to be the most exquisite piece of pictorial publication in the wild life field that it has ever been my privilege to see. Please add my congratulations to the thousands I imagine will be on their way to you, if not already received.

I well realize the hard work and aggravation connected with such a publication, and it should be appreciated by all sportsmen that you and your faithful workers have produced the supreme in a sportsmen's magazine. I also wish to thank you and the staff for their fine cooperation with me and the Federation during the past two years of our association.

HELEN SULLIVAN, Exec. Sec.
Florida Wildlife Federation

YES, INDEED

Dear Sir:

I have read with interest for a number of years your magazine devoted to the game and fresh water fish of Florida.

I am, and have been interested in conservation for over fifty-five years, and have had a casual acquaintance with this mystical

(Continued on Page 42)

thing in a dozen states. In all fairness, there is less desire for true conservation in Florida than any other state in which I've lived or visited.

You get out a splendid magazine. Your articles are timely. But for some reason that part of Florida that I know, the deep southern part, has had nothing resembling conservation in the fourteen years I've lived in Florida.

Like the weather, everybody talks about Conservation, but nobody does anything about it.

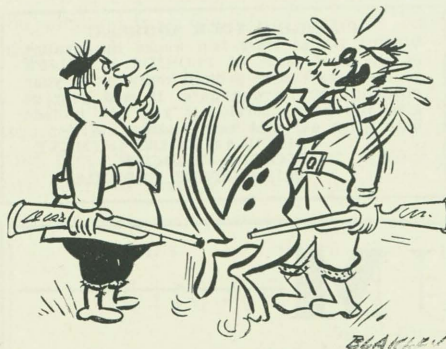
In your July issue, Paul Mains, president of the Florida Outdoor Writers Association, makes the suggestion that an effort be made to see if snook can live in fresh water in an effort to protect the species.

In the name of all that's good! If the people of Florida are so spineless as to let the greatest game fish they have be seined, stop-netted, dynamited, hoss-netted out of existence, then they haven't any right to be called conservationists.

I have caught over 10,000 snook on light, fresh-water tackle . . . and I've literally lived with this, the greatest . . . fish that swims . . . and I have tried to awaken Florida to the loss she is about to sustain. In ten years they will be as rare as the dodo bird and the wild pigeon unless the destructive methods of certain interests are curbed. If Floridians are going to sit supinely by and let a few hundred men rob the State of its greatest game fish then they don't deserve any game or fish of any kind.

There seems to be entirely too much politics and too little interest in the public welfare of Florida. Let a candidate pass it around that he is not in favor of any restrictions on netting and he gets this small minority vote en masse. Why can't we arouse the two and a half millions to the realization of their loss unless the Legislature passes some legislation to preserve this fish that belongs to all of us, and not to just a very wee minority?

J. S. HARDAWAY, JR.
Bonita Springs



"Now hold on! You mean to stand there and say I swiped your dog?"

KEY DEER

Dear Sir:

In September issue of FLORIDA WILDLIFE I noticed a cartoon of "The Last of the Toy Deer of the Florida Keys." I searched through the magazine for some reading on this, but no could find. If you could give me some information on this, I would greatly appreciate it as I am a native of this great State of ours, and have spent a great part of my life in the woods and on the streams of Florida.

I enjoy fishing more than hunting, but do not get as much of that as I would like. However, I can talk a fine job with anyone about it, and have as much fun as the next one when I do get away for a while.

I think your magazine is fine. I eagerly await each copy each month, and am usually the first to get it when it reaches the office.

J. G. CLEMENTS
Tampa

ON WHEELS

Dear Sir:

I am at present a subscriber to FLORIDA WILDLIFE, and you have been sending it to me in Miami. However, as I have been transferred from Florida, and since I cannot take Florida with me, your magazine will have to suffice until I return. Please change my mailing address.

R. W. SAXON
Atlanta, Ga.

FLIES AND DEER

Dear Sir:

Bob Dahne's article "Why the Fly?" in the September issue of FLORIDA WILDLIFE is one of the best I've read. Also, do you think a stamp can be made of Ding Darling's cartoon "Last of the Toy Deer of the Florida Keys," and sold to sportsmen?

MAX MESSER
Miami Beach

(Providing Ding Darling approves, the idea of making a conservation stamp of this cartoon sounds like a worthy project for sportsmen's organizations or other conservation groups.—ED.)

BY DOGSLED

Dear Sir:

Greetings from Alaska. It does a Floridian's heart good to see pictures of the old homestead and to read about places well known. My husband, a Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Agent here in Alaska, has to wait second turn for this magazine. We both agree that you are doing a fine job covering Florida's fish and game.

MRS. ROBERT H. BAIN
Box 670
Fairbanks, Alaska

TRAILER HITCHES

Custom-built, chrome finish to match auto bumper • Easy installation • No special tools required • Precision-made to insure perfect fit • No welding • Price—\$12.25 without ball. Ball—\$3.50. Size 1¾—1⅞—2 in. State size. Mail orders handled promptly. Guaranteed fit.

NO C.O.D.'s

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State Distributor—Dealer inquiry welcomed.

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Raise your own gray Crickets!
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S and W

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MILEY'S GULF SERVICE

Junction U. S. 41 and Florida 200

Garage **HERNANDO, FLA.** Road Service

MARINE GAS AND OIL AVAILABLE

Always Good Fishing and Hunting Near Here

WISHING STONE

Open 24 Hours . . . 7 Days a Week

FISHING TACKLE • REEL PARTS

FISHING LICENSES

BOATS AND MOTORS

Sold All Hours

CABINS • GAS AND OIL

4½ Miles South of Inverness — U. S. 41

GLASS MAGICIAN

(Continued from Page 9)

In making the Kissimmee rods, Doran produces rod tips for surf rods, fly rods, casting rods and spinning rods, as well as any other type that you can think of.

To date, Doran's Kissimmee Fibreglass Manufacturing Company has been in operation for a little more than a year, and he markets the majority of his blanks, blades and completed rods to a national list of jobbers, wholesalers, retailers and manufacturers. He is never too busy, however, that he doesn't have time to put aside his other business to wait while a casual, walk-in customer decides what type of rod he likes.

As president of his company, Doran is aided by his vice-president, Harry F. Thompson, and several workers, including Pat Ledger, Emma Morin and Thelma Thompson, all local Kissimmee people.

A man whose quiet appearance belies his active, ingenious mind, Doran is also keeping his eyes open on uses for the numerous glass by-products of his business. He is reluctant to talk about what he plans to do with the glass dust from his grinding machines, as well as the many other uses to which he can put his fibreglass. But you can be sure that Doran is thinking hard about such manufacturing problems, and, since he is presently the only fibreglass manufacturer in Florida, he is constantly blazing new trails with his product.

He is a quiet man, is Doran, but he is a magician with glass, and like all magicians, he isn't telling anyone all of the tricks he knows, especially when they concern glass magic.

CHANGING YOUR ADDRESS?

WRITE US at least two weeks in advance of the next issue of **FLORIDA WILDLIFE** in order to insure prompt delivery of your magazine on its due date. It will help us give you better service if you will include both your old and new address. Write:
CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT
FLORIDA WILDLIFE
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA



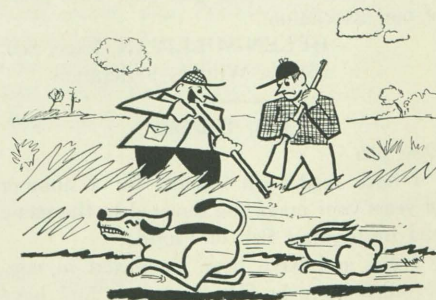
Johnnie W. Kimball caught this husky 3-lb., 5½-oz., blue bream measuring 14½ inches in length and 17 inches girth in Washington County's Crystal Lake.

Ocala National Forest Special Hunting Permits On Sale November 15

Special permits for hunting in the Ocala National Forest from December 6 to 31 will be available only from County Judge D. R. Smith, of Ocala, this year, according to Coleman Newman, director of the State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. Permits will go on sale about November 15.

Hunting will be permitted in that part of the forest not included in the Federal Game Refuge, with the first five days open to hunting, and Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays closed thereafter. Special permits costing \$2.00 for persons under 18 and \$5.00 for persons over 18, will be required in addition to the regular hunting licenses.

Bag limits this year will include one bear, or one panther, or one buck deer with one or more visible antlers. Other game species may be taken according to State and Federal regulations. Both turkeys and marsh hens will be closed, and .22 rim-fire rifles will be prohibited in the taking of deer.



"Bertram is a good rabbit dog, but he does get confused at times."

HOLSUM

is good bread, stays fresh longer.

Holsum Bakery—Tampa, Fla.

October 18 Storm Damages Few Fish In Lake Okeechobee

An estimated total of 105,868 pounds of fish were killed in Lake Okeechobee as a result of the October 18 hurricane, according to John F. Dequine, chief fisheries biologist for the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. It was stated, however, that the total of fish killed would actually have a small or no effect upon the Lake's fish population as a whole.

According to a damage-survey report made by Don Luethy, fish management supervisor, most of the dead fish were observed along the northeast shore of the lake in the 16-mile-long area between Nubbins Slough and Port Mayaca, Dequine said, and mortality was directly attributable to high winds of the storm. Any indirect storm damage, such as that resulting from depleted oxygen supplies, was not observed.

Greatest damage was suffered by catfish (white, speckled and channel) with 83,616 pounds or 78.9% of the total, killed. A relatively high percentage of the kill (8.1 percent or 8,601 pounds) was in crappie, which was explained by the late date of the storm which occurred after the crappie had begun their annual migrations into shallower waters in canals and streams. Last year's storm occurred earlier in the year when the crappie were still in deep water and therefore more protected.

Complete poundages and percentages of the fish killed were: Bass, 3,072 lbs. or 2.9%; crappie, 8,601 lbs. or 8.1%; bluegill, 1,254 lbs. or 1.2%; white catfish, 59,904 lbs. or 56.6%; speckled catfish, 20,480 lbs. or 19.3%; Channel catfish, 3,232 lbs. or 3%; gizzard shad, 5,818 lbs. or 5.5%; golden shiners, 51 lbs. or .1%; needlefish, 3,456 lbs. or 3.3%.

Alligator Evicted For Eating Oranges In Sebring Grove

SEBRING—That even an alligator needs vitamin C was indicated recently when a 7-foot, 4-inch gator was caught munching "pre-concentrate" oranges in the Hamlin grove of the Consolidated Land Company. The grove is one mile inland from Lake June-in-Winter. James Edgemont caught the gator by climbing an orange tree and dropping a noose from a limb directly over the saurian's head.

Since killing gators is illegal, "the fugitive from a traveling bag" was released in an outlying lake with a warning about trespassing.

Whiting New President Of Audubon Society In Monroe County for 1951

KEY WEST—Stuart S. Whiting was recently elected president of the Monroe County Audubon Society. Other officers elected included Mrs. Frances Hames, vice-president, Mrs. Grace Crosby, acting secretary, and Archie Roberts, treasurer.

Members appointed to the board of directors included Wallace B. Kirke, Captain O. A. Smith, and Jean Baillod. Committee chairman and committees for the following year include:

Screen Tours—Wallace B. Kirke, chairman; Junior Audubon Societies—Mrs. Amelia Cabot, chairman; Field Trips and National Headquarters Reports—Mrs. Frances Hames, chairman; Finance Committee—Mrs. Grace Crosby, chairman, and Archie Roberts; Membership Committee—Mrs. William Lee, chairman, Miss Hilda Cuniff, and Miss Jean Baillod.

St. Marks Refuge Quail Hunt Slated January 15 to 20

The annual controlled public quail hunt in the St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge will be held January 15-20, with a maximum of 60 hunters participating, according to Coleman Newman, director of the State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.

Approved by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the hunt will take place in the area known as the Panacea Refuge Unit under direction of Paul T. Kreager, refuge manager. Each hunter will be permitted two consecutive days of hunting from sunrise to sunset under a special permit system.

Applications for permits may be made individually or in groups by writing the refuge manager. Choice of hunting dates will be settled by public drawing held at 2:00 P.M. December 11. No trading of permits or dates will be permitted.

Since the annual hunt is controlled, interested hunters must abide by the hunt rules and regulations, copies of which may be obtained from the refuge manager, Newman stated.

The wildlife of Florida is a public resource, and those individuals who violate this property and the laws that protect it are guilty of stealing from the public.

? ? GOING FISHING ? ?

Good Fresh and Salt Water Fishing
Close to Tampa

Modern Plywood Boats • New Mercury Motors
Turn east one-half mile at blinker light south of Alafia River bridge on U. S. 41 at
RIVERVIEW, FLORIDA

HALL'S TRAILER PARK

On scenic Alafia River • Quiet and restful
SHADED TRAILER SPACE AVAILABLE
F. W. HALL, Prop.

P. O. BOX 75

RIVERVIEW, FLA.

THE FISHERMAN'S PAL

Ideal for plug and fly casters; it enables them to move the boat about the fishing grounds very quietly, without missing a cast. When you use one you're bound to like it; don't keep it if you don't. Only \$25.00; think of it, when you paddle while your buddy casts.

MARTIN'S FISHTAIL PROPELLER
6599 Haines Rd. St. Petersburg, Fla.

BLACK BASS FISHING IN FLORIDA

Spend your fishing vacation at Camp George on the beautiful St. Johns River located between Big and Little Lakes George. Year 'round fishing. No closed season. One and two bedroom cottages completely furnished, with bath, kitchen, and screened porch. Gas for cooking, electric refrigerator, innerspring mattresses, good boats, and native guides. We try to make your vacation a restful and enjoyable one—write for complete information.

CAMP GEORGE

P.O. Box 270 Huntingdon, Florida
Phone Pomona Park, Exchange 2588

BRADENTON, FLORIDA

... is headquarters for excellent fishing
in rivers, bays and Gulf.

Bradenton Chamber of Commerce
Bradenton, Florida

PANA-VISTA LODGE

On beautiful Lake Panasoffkee and Withlacoochee River, unexcelled fishing and hunting. Fresh water fishing for bass, bream, crappie and the best wild turkey and squirrel hunting in Central Florida, with many small lakes offering excellent duck hunting in season. Fourteen modern equipped housekeeping cottages with restaurant serving excellent home cooked food. Boats, motors, guides, complete line of fishing tackle in stock as well as live bait at all times. Write for information and reservations.

RUFÉ WYSONG, Manager
Panasoffkee, Florida (Tel. Bushnell 2061) Sumter County

SPANISH PARK RESTAURANT

"As Spanish as Old Spain"

SEAFOODS • STEAKS • SALADS

FINEST IN SPANISH AND AMERICAN FOODS
FREE PARKING LOT ADJOINING

East Broadway at 36th St. TAMPA, FLA.

FOR SALE

An ideal marketing space for those having outdoor sports equipment, material and services for sale. Display advertisements in FLORIDA WILDLIFE are effective selling aids. Write: Advertising Dept., Florida Wildlife, Tallahassee, Fla., for advertising rates, spaces and other information.

CABINS • BOATS • BAIT • MOTORS • GUIDES

KINARD'S FISHING CAMP

On the Beautiful St. Johns River

7 MILES SOUTH OF PALATKA — ON HIGHWAY 17

P. O. SAN MATEO, FLORIDA

PHONE 841-R2

Florida's Best Fresh Water Fishing Grounds

EAGLE'S NEST FISH CAMP

Seven Miles North of Leesburg
12 MODERN CABINS WITH KITCHENS
RESTAURANT AND GROCERY
If you fly, drop in on our 2,300 ft. runway.
JERRY GARRIOTT, Owner
Leesburg, Florida Lake County

Phone 320-L Box 211 Apalachicola, Florida

ABERCROMBIE FISHING LODGE

On Apalachicola River 5 Miles from City
BOATS, MOTORS AND CABINS AVAILABLE
HENRY ABERCROMBIE

TALLAHASSEE MOTOR HOTEL

100 TOP-GRADE COTTAGES
U. S. 27, Alternate 90—1 Mile Downtown
IN THE CENTER OF EXCELLENT FRESH
AND SALT WATER FISHING
GOOD HUNTING

Located for Best Fishing at Bass Capital

ST. JOHNS FISHING LODGE

HUNTINGTON, FLORIDA
(Across from Ocala National Forest)
MODERN COTTAGES • PRIVATE ROOMS
BOATS • MOTORS • BAIT • GUIDES
RESTAURANT AND GROCERY
DAN JOINER

IN ALL FLORIDA, NOTHING LIKE THIS...

One of Florida's best lakes for Bass and Perch. Fishing delightfully secluded in a land of rolling hills near the famous Bok Singing Tower and exciting Cypress Gardens. Excellent food at popular prices.

HOTEL BONAIRE

Albert Wing, Mgr. Lake Wales, Florida

GOOD FISHING AND DUCK HUNTING

Reasonable Rates

THE OASIS

MODERN CABINS FURNISHED COMPLETE
BOATS, MOTORS AND LIVE BAIT

For Reservations Write

The OASIS, R. D. 1, Lake Wales, Florida

GATEWAY FISHING CAMP

Are you wishing you could come to Florida this winter to enjoy our sunshine and Black Bass fishing? You can afford to come to our Camp, located on the St. John's River. We have nothing fancy, but have clean housekeeping cabins and boats, also motors, guides, live bait. Community rest rooms and showers. \$15 & \$24 per week.

H. W. Pugh — Box 45 — Welaka, Fla.

FOR SALE

An ideal marketing space for those having outdoor sports equipment, material and services for sale. Display advertisements in FLORIDA WILDLIFE are effective selling aids. Write: Advertising Dept., Florida Wildlife, Tallahassee, Fla., for advertising rates, spaces and other information.

W. C. DAVIS

LUMBER • BUILDING MATERIAL

Missouri Avenue

NEW PORT RICHEY, FLORIDA

STICKS AND STONES

(Continued from Page 39)

SNOOK BOOSTER

Dear Sir:

I get a great deal of pleasure out of your magazine. I am a Florida booster, having been going down off and on during the winters since the season of 1916-17. I spend most of my time at Bradenton, and have caught many a big snook out of the Manatee River.

R. G. CORNELIUS
Rhinebeck, N. Y.

NO SALE

Dear Sir:

Enclosed please find money order to cover starting my subscription to FLORIDA WILDLIFE at once. Also add my vote to the many other hunters and fishermen in the State who DO NOT want our good fishing ruined by selling our speckled perch, bream or bass.

R. D. PRIEST
Jacksonville

PROFESSOR DEFROCKED

Dear Sir:

In your quiz column in September issue of FLORIDA WILDLIFE, Professor Smarty outsmarted himself. In answer to Mr. W. H. Smith's question: "Is it permissible to hunt wildcats with dogs, 22-calibre rifles and headlights?" Professor Smarty said "Always illegal to enter woods at night with headlights for any purpose." The correct answer, I believe, should have been "Always illegal to enter woods at night with head lights AND RIFLES."

DAN WITHERS
Jacksonville

(When last seen, Professor Smarty was sitting on his dunce's stool in the outer office. Mr. Withers' answer, of course, is correct.—ED.)

CLOSED SEASON

Dear Sir:

As one of your \$7.50 license customers, may I add my appeal for a closed season on fresh-water streams and lakes in Florida beginning in 1951 and continuing thereafter yearly during the spawning season? I will not attempt to argue with our college professors over whether a closed season helps or not. Results are my only

measuring stick, and 40 years of Florida fishing has been a very good guide in my receiving first-hand information. I believe closed seasons are effective.

CLAUDE ROUNTREE
Thomasville, Ga.

MORE BLAKELY

Dear Sir:

We enjoy your magazine very much. All the articles are swell, and the cartoons, too. Let's have more Blakely cartoons; we missed not seeing any in the September issue. Keep up the good work and please renew our subscription.

MR. & MRS. CHICK LITTLE
Miami

EXPANDING

Dear Sir:

Consider the little magazine very much work a "buck" of mine or anybody's money. Sort of sorry you're going to expand FLORIDA WILDLIFE and get "commercial" about it, but I realize how things are these days.

BOB BULLARD
St. Petersburg

SCHOOL DAYS

Dear Sir:

I have had the opportunity of seeing your magazine in our school library and I read it until the pages were thin. I can't wait for the next edition so I'm asking to be placed on your mailing list.

I caught a 38-pound garfish in Lake Concord at Orlando last month. He fought 18 minutes before I was able to land him. When I cut him open his stomach contained four small bass, one crappie and several small bream. I am starting a one man campaign against such predators even though I am only 14.

JIM POWELL
Orlando



"Now if we should get lost, I hope you won't go blabbing to our wives which way we went."

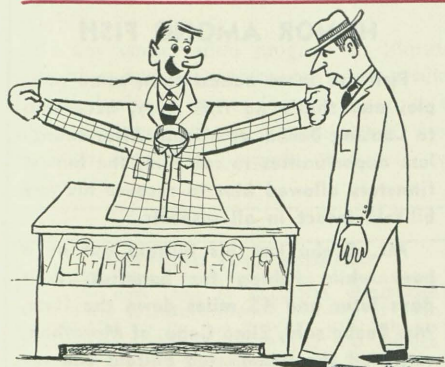
Wildlife Institute Says Added Effort Due From Hunters

More individual effort on the part of duck hunters will be needed to insure the perpetuation of America's waterfowl flights, the Wildlife Management Institute reports.

The gun is not the only factor tapping the waterfowl resource, although hunting pressure is rising annually. The heaviest toll is taken by destruction of breeding, feeding, and wintering marshes upon which waterfowl depend. Such areas are passing rapidly from the American scene through drainage—some essential to agriculture but much needlessly inspired by PMA subsidies; through the filling of marshes from dredging operations; and through the expansion of industry. The situation prevails from the breeding marshes in Canada to the Gulf. The combined efforts of all agencies interested in ducks cannot keep pace with destruction of marshes by the Army Corps of Engineers, PMA, the Bureau of Reclamation, and industry.

In every town where duck hunting is popular, there are one or more marshes which produce ducks or maintain them during migration or winter. Most are small, but those in the north usually produce a brood or two, and those farther south may winter a hundred or more ducks each winter. Nearby may be areas which are even worse—wet lands, too shallow and too clogged with vegetation to support anything but mosquitoes.

Organized sportsmen have two choices: they can watch these marshes go and watch the ducks go with them; or they can roll up their sleeves and go to work to make the wet areas remaining produce more birds. Through proper planting and the stabilization of water levels by low dams, by ditching or blasting clogged marshes, tracts producing a dozen ducklings a year can be made to produce 24. State game departments, the Soil Conservation Service, the



"This shirt features plenty of room for padding, casting, and describing the fish that get away."

Mother Pintail Demonstrates Top Speed For Tom Sterling

Salvage operations by Tom Sterling, biologist on DU projects in the Brooks district of southern Alberta, led to some unexpected data on the speed of Pintail flights recently. L. H. Barkhausen of Chicago, chairman of the executive committee of Ducks Unlimited said today.

Driving along a road, Sterling came upon a mother Pintail with a brood of seven downy young trekking along headed for water. Knowing that they had a long way to go, he stopped, gathered the brood into a paper bag and placed them on the back seat of the car.

Meanwhile the female Pintail tried to lure him away by pretending to have a broken wing, and seemed most perturbed. When he drove off, he was amazed to find the female flying alongside the car at 40 miles per hour. He put on more speed, and found that she fell behind at 45 miles per hour, but speedily caught up when he slowed to 40 miles per hour.

Reaching the water, Sterling turned the brood loose, and as soon as he had retreated to the car they were joined by a scolding mother who hurried them to the nearest cover.

Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Wildlife Management Institute all have technically trained men who are eager to assist any organized sportsmen's group or landowner in planning developments of this kind. The Fish and Wildlife Service and state departments cannot, under present conditions, do the needed work on the thousands of backyard marshes scattered across the nation. This job is up to the sportsmen if they want more ducks.

Prospective advertisers for FLORIDA WILDLIFE magazine are advised that unauthorized persons have been reported as fraudulently soliciting and selling advertising for FLORIDA WILDLIFE.

Potential advertisers are therefore warned that the only persons authorized to solicit advertising and collect advertising money for FLORIDA WILDLIFE are regularly employed personnel of the State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, and have upon their person at all times an official letter of introduction and authorization.

Before discussing FLORIDA WILDLIFE advertising with any salesman or collector, please insist upon seeing that all of his credentials are in proper order.

PROFESSOR SMARTY

(Continued from Page 33)

Q. Heard somewhere that every living thing preys or lives on something else. I know that chiggers often prey on me or animals, but what, pray tell, preys on chiggers?—J. A. D., Sarasota.

A. A little heaven-sent mite known as the "snout-bug." Snout-bugs are quick, blood-thirsty little demons that are sudden death on chiggers or "red-bugs." Snout-bugs dash up to a chigger, throw a headlock on it and kill it with their beak-like snouts. After killing four or five chiggers in a row in this fashion, the snout-bug then returns to feed at its leisure. Old saying is: "You can't do anything for chigger bites but scratch them and pray for more snout-bugs."

Q. What flies are most commonly used in fly fishing—D. C., St. PETERSBURG.

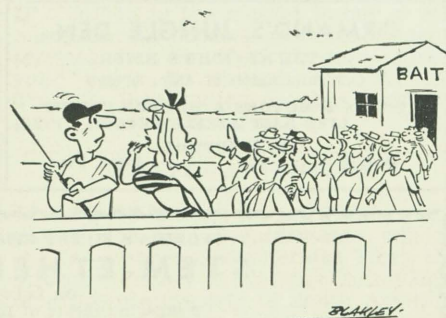
A. Royal Coachman, Cahill, Black Gnat, Montreal and Brown Hackle all rank among the top fly patterns. However, preferences vary in different sections of the country and in different seasons.

Q. Have often heard stories of how many buffalo once ranged throughout the West. All kidding aside, how thick were the buffalo at their peak, and how many are left now?—B. P., ORLANDO.

A. It was estimated that the buffalo numbered between 300 million and 600 million at the time that the white man first pushed westward. By 1895, there were only about 800 left, all the remainder having been slaughtered. Only living ones now are in captivity, and number in the low thousands.

Q. What do deer feed on?

A. Deer food in Florida consists chiefly of leaves and various kinds of grasses. During the fall and winter, deer will travel considerable distances to obtain a favorite food—acorns.



"I don't know. I just walked in and asked for a dozen shrimp."

Fire Prevention Meet Held In Orlando By State Marshal Larson

A state-wide fire prevention conference was held at Orlando October 25-26 to acquaint public officials, industrialists, homeowners, church, school and hospital authorities and others with the newest fire prevention methods, according to J. Edwin Larson, State Treasurer and Fire Marshal. Methods of saboteurs in causing fires and explosions were also discussed by civil defense officials.

Staggering loss of life and property by fire can be greatly minimized, Larson stated. "But the task requires long range planning, daily thought, and watchfulness," he said, commenting on the conference.

A similar conference held by Larson in 1948 was reported to have greatly stimulated prevention activities in many parts of the State, according to reports of municipal and county fire department authorities.

FISHING TACKLE REPAIRED



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BUSINESS
HANDLED
PROMPTLY

**WEBB'S CITY
FISH HOLE**
ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA

MELTZER & PLEVIN REALTORS

Specialists in Country Properties, Groves, Farms, Pastures and Waterfront Homes.

LUTZ, FLORIDA
Telephones—391 or 364

ORMAND'S JUNGLE DEN

ON THE ST. JOHN'S RIVER
One mile north of Astor bridge

BOATS • MOTORS • MODERN CABINS
LIVE BAIT AT ALL TIMES
O. E. Ormand
Box 86 Astor, Fla.

Bart Peaden Resigns Post in Commission Auditing Department

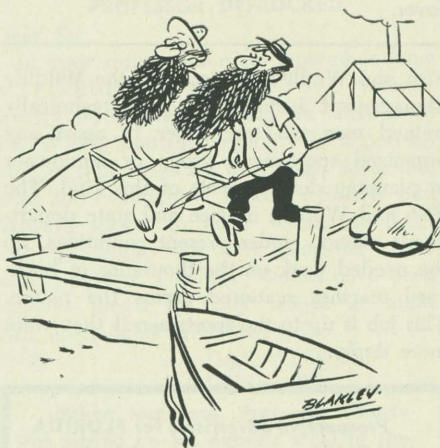
Bart Peaden, administrative assistant to the director of the State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, recently announced his resignation effective November 30, 1950, according to Coleman Newman, director.

In making his resignation, Peaden stated that he was taking the action in order to enable him to accept a more lucrative position in private business.

Peaden joined the Commission's auditing department September 15, 1947. He was formerly employed by the U. S. War Department at Eglin Field as assistant property and supply officer.

Director Coleman Newman accepted Peaden's resignation with regret, stating:

"I regret very much losing your services from our department. However, with the advantages that you are gaining, it would



Mine's the same way. The minute I get home she'll insist I shave it off.

Highlands First On List to Have Lakes Seined, Judge Says

SEBRING—Highlands county is first on the list to have its lakes seined for rough fish by the State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, County Judge Howard Livingston was recently advised by Director Coleman Newman. Newman said a crew is being formed and equipment is being put together to seine Highlands county lakes, and that work would start in two or three weeks.

Don R. Luethy, fish management supervisor of the Department in company with Tom Bozeman, wildlife officer of Highlands county, was in Sebring a few days ago making arrangements for moving state-owned equipment into Rex Beach Lake, where seining is expected to start about the first of November.

The primary object is to remove rough fish and undesirable species, such as mud, gar, shad, suckers, and cat fish, and by doing so relieve the pressure on the more desirable species. The crew is expected to work five days a week. Catfish will be sold to commercial fishermen, Luethy said, and game fish will be returned to the water.

Other lakes in the county to be seined are Lotela in Avon Park, and June-in-the-Winter in Lake Placid. Luethy said E. T. Heinan of the Lakeland office will assist with the work.

be difficult to try to encourage you to remain further with our Commission.

"Your work with our department has been extremely well done. Many difficult problems have been solved and properly managed by you. I especially appreciate the personal assistance you have given me."

Appointment of Peaden's successor has not as yet been announced, Newman stated.

HONOR AMONG FISH

Fish are more honest than some people, and that's no fish story, according to Lansing Beebe, of Miami. After countless opportunities to rob him, the honest finnsters allowed him to recover his lost billfold intact in all respects.

Mr. Beebe lost his billfold out of a boat while fishing for bonefish. Four days later and 45 miles down the flats, Mr. Beebe said, Elmo Capo, of Marathon, retrieved the unmolested billfold and returned it to him.

FLORIDA'S FINEST FISHING AND DUCK HUNTING STEM-ETHEREDGE CAMP

On Lake Okeechobee

3 miles northeast of Lakeport on State Road 78

For reservations write or telegraph: R.F.D. No. 2, MOORE HAVEN, FLORIDA

MOTORS • GUIDES • CABINS • MEALS • TRAILER SPACE • TACKLE SUPPLIES
Agents for Johnson Motors • We Have Facilities for Quick Freezing Your Game

TIMBERLANDS AND WILDLIFE

By Bob Dahne

(Reprinted from Florida Trees and Trails Magazine)

TIMBERLANDS are the natural habitat of many game animals found in the State of Florida, and as such are extremely important to conservation of our wildlife. In addition, many kinds of wildlife are found in the woods that are found nowhere else.

Such animals as the deer, fox, raccoon, opossum, panther and bear are naturally harbored in woodland areas, while many song and insect-eating birds live in the trees.

In many cases, where woodlands are promiscuously destroyed or even harmed, the natural environment balance of our woodland creatures is often endangered. In other cases, controlled forestry practices are necessary to provide a mixture of mature and young trees that will afford the animals a variety of habitat. As a general rule, the more variety in the natural woodland habitat, the greater the variety of game that will be found. Furthermore, open clearings are especially valuable to certain types of wild creatures.

Uncontrolled burning and cutting of timberlands is often extremely detrimental to our wildlife. Under improper forestry practices, the woodland creatures are bound to become fewer and fewer, and sometimes disappear.

To protect the useful and beautiful wild things found in our woodlands, we must first protect their woodland homes, so they may find ample food, shelter, and breeding, living and hiding places.

Protection of our woodlands is always an integral portion of any state-wide conservation or game management program. Preservation and conservation of our woodlands automatically results in the preservation and conservation of many kinds of wildlife.

In any conservation program in Florida, sportsmen and conservationists must realize that timberlands are an important source of cover for many of our game animals, and, as such, must be properly managed and preserved.

CHANGING YOUR ADDRESS?

WRITE US at least two weeks in advance of the next issue of **FLORIDA WILDLIFE** in order to insure prompt delivery of your magazine on its due date. It will help us give you better service if you will include both your old and new address. Write:
CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT
FLORIDA WILDLIFE
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

Wildlife Trading Post

The Wildlife Trading Post is especially designed for SWAPPING, BUYING or SELLING outdoor sports equipment, services, etc. Classified advertisements 10c a word per insertion, payable in advance. Minimum advertisements 15 words or \$1.50. Initials, abbreviations and groups of numbers count as words. (No blind box-number ads can be accepted.) Send copy and remittance to: Wildlife Trading Post, Florida Wildlife, Tallahassee, Fla.

TAXIDERMY

HI-GRADE TAXIDERMY, most modern process. Guaranteed work. Fish a specialty. — **FLORIDA WILD ANIMAL RANCH**, 4th Street N. at 48th Ave., St. Petersburg, Fla.

FISH AND GAME ATTRACTIONS

ATTRACT WILD DUCKS, improve fishing. Plant natural food, many kinds adapted to Florida waters. Described in free illustrated book. Write describe area, receive free planting advice. Game Food Nurseries, P. O. Box 371, Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

FOOD SUPPLIES

DIXIE LILY MILLING CO., of West Florida, Chipley, Florida. Distributors of Dixie Lily Meal, Grits, Flour, Rice, Syrup, Dried Beans and Peas, and the famous Spanish Yellow Rice Dinner.

COTTAGES

BRAND'S COTTAGES, with cooking facilities, Lake Tarpon. Good fishing, boats and bait. Box 388, Tarpon Springs. Phone 2473.

FISH BAIT

LIVE BAIT FOR SALE: 200 Red Worms, \$1.50. 200 Large Wigglers, \$2.00. 200 Gray Crickets, \$3.30. Wholesale Buyers: 1,000 Red Worms \$5.00. 2,500 Red Worms, \$11.50. All worms packed 100 worms to cup with ample feed to keep for two weeks if stored in cool, well ventilated room. Orders shipped same day received. Prepaid. — **GILBERT'S FARM**, Chipley, Florida.

LIVE BAIT FOR SALE: 200 Red Worms, \$1.50. 200 Large Wigglers, \$2.00. 200 Gray Crickets, \$3.30. Wholesale Buyers: 1,000 Red Worms, \$5.00. 2,500 Red Worms, \$11.50. All worms packed 100 worms to cup with ample feed to keep for two weeks if stored in cool, well ventilated room. Orders shipped same day received. Prepaid. — **GILBERT'S FARM**, Chipley, Florida.

FISHING PLUGS

FRESH AND SALT WATER PLUGS. Beautiful colors and models that fish will hit. \$7.00 per dozen.—**Gulf Stream Tackle Shop**, 475 S.W. 8th Street, Phone 3-4835, Miami, Fla.

MISCELLANEOUS

BROWNING 16 gauge—2 barrels, \$75.00. Salt water rod and 200 reel, \$30.00.—**A. D. Stollenwerck**, 2005 Oak St., Jacksonville, Fla.

BOATS

STAR Metal Sportsman Stainless Steel 12-foot Boat. Like new. Car racks included. \$160. **W. D. Griffin**, Box 467, Quincy, Fla.

FISHING CAMPS

Fishing Camp: BACKWATER FISH CAMP. Completely furnished cottages with cooking facilities, bait, boats, tackle, guides. Located between Dunnellon and Inglis on Florida 40.

SALESMEN

YOU CAN sell yourself and your abilities most efficiently through a classified advertisement in the Wildlife Trading Post. Businessmen can quickly acquire new salesmen for their products by advertising in this space. Reasonable rates.

FLEA RACING

IF YOU'RE interested in holding a flea race in your local community and need special breeds of fleas, such as dog fleas, rabbit fleas, grass fleas, or guaranteed quick-starting, high-jumping, acrobatic fleas, why not try advertising your needs in the Wildlife Trading Post? Reasonable rates.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

TIRED of punching time clocks? Looking for small, private, part-time business of your own that needs only a small capital investment? Why not try digging earthworms in your back yard and then advertising them for sale in the Wildlife Trading Post? Reasonable rates.

REAL ESTATE—RESORTS

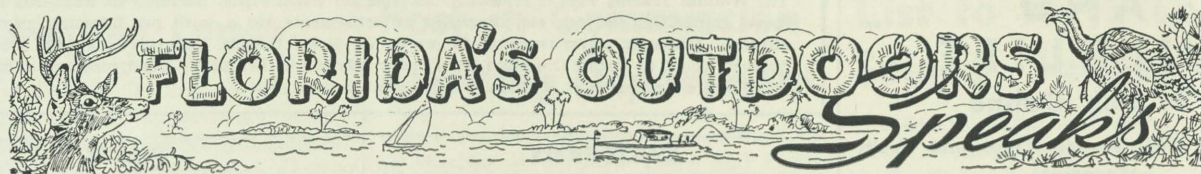
A PERFECT home overlooking a beautiful lake or river with the finest black-bass fishing in the world can be easily bought or sold by advertising in the Wildlife Trading Post. Reasonable rates.

MISCELLANEOUS

IF YOU'RE in the market to buy or sell miscellaneous outdoor sports equipment, services, etc., the ideal place to express your needs is through the Wildlife Trading Post which reaches outdoor-lovers in all walks of life.

TRAVEL—ADVENTURE

IF YOU'RE looking for a traveling companion for an adventuresome trip to the far-reaches of mysterious Tibet, the strange territory of Florida's Tate's Hell, or a prospecting trip to South America, you will find that you'll receive quick inquiries from an advertisement placed in the Wildlife Trading Post. Reasonable rates.



FLORIDA'S OUTDOORS Speaks

WHEN strangers, especially men, first hear the story that I, a mere woman, once traveled the Inland Waterway from Long Island to Florida alone in my cruiser with only a black kitten for a crew, they look at me as if I were slightly mad. A few of them recover sufficiently from the shock to ask why a woman would ever undertake such an insane, lonely voyage.

The only answer that I can give is that I just had to come to Florida. Florida has always struck me as being the ideal base for any artist, writer, craftsman or creative person of any sort. The lower living costs in Florida, if not actually in dollar-purchasing power, can be measured in terms of the less expensive and fewer number of clothes necessary to live in Florida. In addition, there is almost no fuel problem for eleven months of the year, and the rents are lower unless a person feels the need for the lush surroundings customarily found in high-priced, fashionable tourist traps.

Weighing all of these attractive statistics, I first picked Florida as my permanent home and working base back in 1946. At that time I was part owner of a costume jewelry manufacturing plant in New York City.

Fortunately, I had bought a small cruiser just after the end of the war. I immediately took a course in navigation and small boat handling at the Huntington High School. I must admit that I wasn't too good a book student, but with the boat to learn my lessons on, even if I learned them the hard way. I soon became fairly proficient inside of two seasons.

Then, suddenly, I fell in love with the idea of making the trip to Florida via the famous Inland Waterway. There was nothing to stop me, and I thought that it would be most convenient and economical to tie up at some pleasant harbor and use my boat as a combined home, studio and office. Then I would figure out what the next step would be. After all, even a vagabond must eat three times a day.

I knew that I would have to make the trip alone, since there was no one available who could, or would, spare the time, or with whom

I cared to be in such close quarters with for such a long period.

I also wanted the freedom of being able to stay as long as I pleased in any port, or leave at any time without the necessity of complying with someone else's ideas.

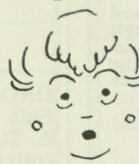
So, business disposed of, I began making my preparations. They were thorough because I would have to spend at least three months alone on a cruiser. My only companion would be my black kitten, whom I designated as my crew.

About the trip, all I can say is that the next three months were the most delightful ones of my life. The so-called monotonous wastes of the Carolina swamps, with their bird sanctuaries and ever-changing colors and contours, filled my eyes with beauty and my soul with peace. But I never had any trouble becoming too peaceful or lyrical on that trip, because there was always an occasional night spent grounded on a shoal or a little engine trouble to liven things up for me. Although I did have my troubles, stranded by the tides or out of commission, I was always able to proceed sooner or later by one method or another.

Finally, I landed at Melbourne, tied up at the Indian River Marina in January, 1949, and began looking about for some way to make a living. Almost immediately I found a market for my bird paintings, and some commercial art, using primarily the themes that had occurred to me during the long contemplative months of my voyage.

Eventually, such was Florida's effect on me, I launched my "Florida Artist Series" of greeting cards.

What I really want to say is that during the two long, happy years I have spent in Florida, I have found a true contentment for myself that is beyond any price. I only wish that many other people, everywhere, will also be able to find that peace of spirit.



Alvin Johnson

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CONTENTS

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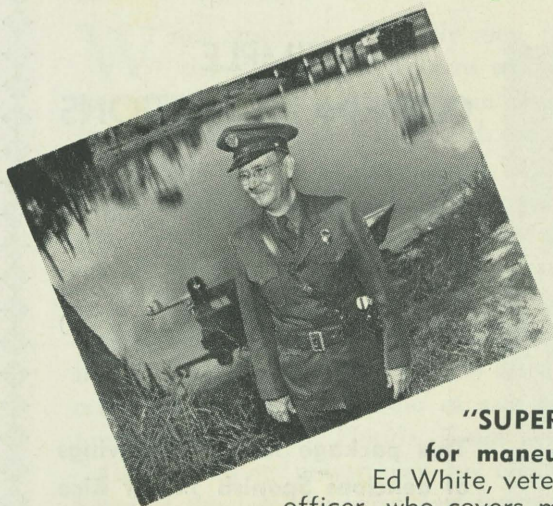


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